

February 2008 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Mini
Gokulam
7 Greeting
Cards!



**Activity
Special!**

PARLE

Ram and Shyam

MMM...POPPINS!

HOUNDING KING CREEP



In Jaylakshmi Colony, Ram & Shyam were on the trail of a ghastly pet robber.

Wonder who's stealing the pets in our colony?

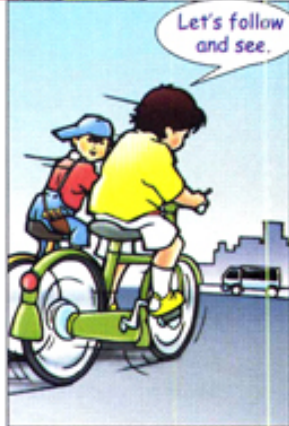


Like most colony boys, they knew each vehicle around. So one day when they notice a mysterious van...

What's that strange van doing here?



Let's follow and see.



Once the van stopped near a house...

It's King Creep and his goons, stealing our dogs.



Look they're trapping it with a bone.



While the goons were busy, our heroes snuck behind to open the door and free the dogs.

We'll save you.



The moment Shyam has his Poppins, the dogs change colours so that they are camouflaged.

Help me Poppins.



The dogs turn the tables on the goons, who run off terrified.



Chakha diya na Poppins ka mazaa



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.

-William Canton

FEBRUARY 2008

Vol.XX, No.7



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The drawing on top of each page in this issue is by...
S.Varshini, Std II, Velammal Matric.Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai - 37





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Dear Reader,

Gone are the days when cricket used to be a gentlemen's game.

Too much of prize money has turned the cricket ground into a battlefield! There are frequent and false claims of "how's that", practically terrorizing the umpire! Batsmen no longer walk towards the pavilion even when they know they are out. They wait, hoping for a wrong decision by the umpire!

Cricket Ground Turns Battle Field!



The spectators too seem to consider the match as a war between nations and react violently at times.

Players use foul language to create tension in the opponent, thereby hoping for mistakes to be committed, resulting in dismissal.

Harbajan may be declared innocent or he may be penalised for using the word "monkey"; however, the discussion was more about whether the word monkey is racist or not! As though it is pardonable to call a player "monkey", if it is not a racist expression!

Today, the electronic media focuses more on sensational events than on the game itself!

Supposing Ricky Ponting and Anil Kumble had come together to say, "Let's forget Sydney and carry on with the game", how wonderful that would have been!

The urge to win should certainly prevail but not at the cost of friendship. For, that is the essence of the sportive spirit.

- Editor

A Movie that Really Moved Us!

Taare Zameen Par a hit movie all over the world has been acclaimed as a must watch for parents, children as well as teachers all over the country.

I had just returned from my music class when I heard the news... I was supposed to watch the much awaited movie of Aamir Khan with my friend Akshara!

I simply grabbed my jacket and rushed to the car. Taare Zameen Par was an emotional blockbuster... which could make you weep at one point and burst out with lilting laughter at another point.

The story of this thought provoking movie revolves around the life of an eight year old victim of dyslexia, Ishaan. His difficulty goes unnoticed and he is continuously pressurized to get good marks until Nikumb (played by Aamir Khan) butts in.

The scenario changes drastically after Nikumb's entry. He turns out to be Ishaan's mentor and helps him come out successfully in life.

Much has been said about its actors but we as audience also should acknowledge it as a landmark film of our times. Taare Zameen Par has handled the topic of children with utmost sensitivity and not frivolously. It sends an important message to parents to refresh their perspective towards children and education as a whole.

And film makers should make note too, that a simple concept can be executed into a remarkable piece of art.

I would sum up that Taare Zameen Par is an important movie of our times.

- S.Varsha, Std.VIII,

Ramniranjan Podar School, Mumbai





From
crafts to
computer
programming,
children's
lives are
crammed with
activities
today.

Active Always!



Children today are interested in gardening, spending time with pets, playing musical instruments, browsing the net, drawing, handicrafts, cooking etc. In this cover story, some children share their experiences and feelings about their favourite activities with delight.

“After finishing my home work, I help my Mom in cleaning the house and arranging things in

their place. Browsing the net to know useful information for my project work, comes next. I have violin classes twice a week. During holidays I love to make sponge dolls. My mom just lets me mix my own horlicks that too with reluctance. I don't do cooking or much of kitchen work," says Anu of eighth standard, shyly.



• Anu

"My mom is an expert in craft work and cooking. I learn many things from her like making beautiful jewels with beads and colourful stones; toys, dolls out of chart paper, fur and sponge; embroidery stitches and so on.

Now my handkerchiefs turn more beautiful with little embroidered patterns. says Vindhya of eighth standard, proudly.

"I like to prepare lemonade, and fruitsalad too!" she adds.

Sriram likes to draw cartoon pictures. Whenever he finds free time, he creates his own cartoon sto-

ries. Painting cartoon pictures on shirts, T-shirts; implementing his new ideas as a power point presentation, playing basket ball are his other activities. "Even while studying for exams, my hands involuntarily sketch pictures on my school note books! I feel relaxed when I study this way!" he says with a smile!

Nidhi of fifth standard says proudly that she makes coffee for her mom when she returns tired from office. She

washes up vessels and then goes cycling, to play with friends. She also enjoys video games.

"I help my friends in their project work" says Aswin of eleventh standard. During holidays, he helps his mom and grandma to clean the shelves. He likes to play football, to watch Pogo and other cartoon channels; shopping and making birthday greeting cards for his family members and friends.

- Mithra

Cover design:
Jayaraj



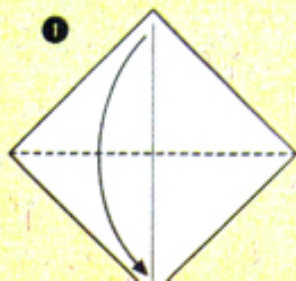


Origami

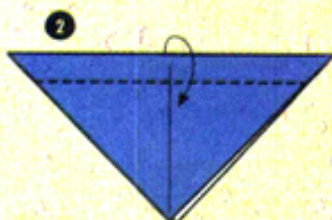
Origami is an ancient Japanese craft which creates beautiful paper models of living and non-living objects. A square piece of paper is all that is needed to make an origami model. Here are some lovely origami pieces for you to look at →



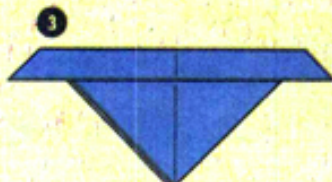
Samurai helmet



Make a diagonal crease, unfold; then fold to make a triangle the other way.



Fold the triangle base over and down a little.



Turn over.



Fold the left and right halves to the centre crease.



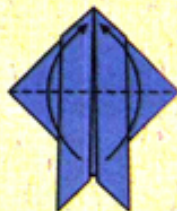
1. 'ta to' paper case
2. Hina dolls
3. balloons,
4. rabbit
5. wild boar
6. snail
7. frog
8. Samurai helmets
9. fur seal
10. dogs
11. decorative ball
12. cranes
13. treasure ship

To make your own Origami Samurai helmet, follow the instructions below. If you use a paper as big as a newspaper sheet, you can make a helmet to more or less fit your head and pretend to be a Samurai!

*Courtesy: Nipponia
(Discovery Japan)*

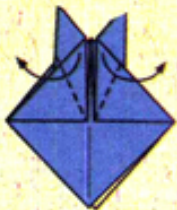
- A quarterly magazine.

5



Fold the two flaps up to the horizontal centre, aligning their outer sides with the upper sides of the model.

6



Fold the two points away from the centre.

8



Fold up the base of the triangle made in Step 7, folding at the horizontal centre.

9



Take the triangle that points down (upper piece of paper), and fold it up, making the fold below the horizontal centre.

7



10

Your finished helmet



Take the remaining triangle that points down, fold up to the horizontal centre then shove it inside the helmet.

My house is valuable.
It is small and adaptable.
It provides shelter to our family.
And space to play happily.
It protects me in summer.
It protects me in winter.
It shields me from rain
It relieves my pain,
It is a big world for the living
and non-living.



It gives joy to every human
being.
Since shelter is the basic need,
My house is a lovely place
indeed!

- N. Swetha Priya, Std.VI,
The Hindu Senior Secondary
School, Chennai - 5

Life is too hard
But jolly if you
work hard.
Life is a struggle
Between good and
evil.

Life is a river,
An experiment for ever.
Take in the good qualities
And throw out the bad.

Struggle for its existence
And have a good inner sense.
Take life as a revolution
But not just as a process of
evolution.

- Prabitha. P.B., Std.IX,
St. Ann's High School,
Pandeshwar, Mangalore

LIFE



Around the city they run,
For the sake of their daily bun.
With torn clothes and feet bare,
Who is there, for them to care?

They live by the streets,
And have a lot of needs.
Yes they are the rag-pickers,
Their lives are like a candlelight
that flickers.

For they have no foundation,
What are they in this vast nation?
A group for whom garbage is gold,
Their lives, who would mould?
Life for them isn't a bed of roses,
And can't be explained in poetry
verses.

Still this life of theirs they enjoy,
Though it's filled with no joy.
To live their life just one day,
Is a Herculean task, I say!
Now that you know their plight,
To cheer them up,
Contribute your mite!

- Sudharsan Rengarajen, Std XII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1,
Uppal, Hyderabad



My hanger is a thin tube
He always sits in the cupboard
I don't know
Whether he is happy or sad
But then I trouble him a lot!
I've seen him since my childhood.
Everyday after school
I place my skirt on him
Not only mine
My sister's too!
If guests are there
He's gone!
So Many clothes

My Hanger's Story!



Sometimes he is tired too.
But still like a sweet-heart
He carries all the clothes!
Sometimes I break him
Sometimes I love him.
At times
I remember some incidents which
made me cry.
Now years have passed
But my hanger is the same
Still carrying clothes!

- M.Sindhuja Nandini, Std.XI,
St. John's English School and
Junior College, Chennai



Benazir Bhutto was killed by an unknown assailant when he fired at her. Simultaneously there was a suicide bomber setting off a terrible explosion

in which several of her supporters were killed. In Musharraf's opinion, she alone was responsible for her death since she stood up in the car through the sun roof, to wave at her supporters, which she should not have done for security reasons. Musharraf has requested the Scotland Yard to help in investigations, probably to assure the people that there is no cover-up by him. Meanwhile elections have been postponed once again in Pakistan. Nineteen year old Bilawal, son of Benazir has been anointed Chairman of Pakistan People's Party, obviously to harvest sympathy votes.



B.J.P. has won in Gujarat with an absolute majority and it is seen as a personal victory for the Chief Minister Narendra Modi. While this was not altogether unexpected, BJP's victory in Himachal Pradesh came as a rude shock to the Congress which was in power in the state. The victory in Gujarat is seen as a vote for good governance and not a vote for Hindutva. Conversely bad administration in Himachal Pradesh resulted in the humiliating

• First black President?



• Teenage Chairman!

A Teenager

defeat of the ruling Congress.

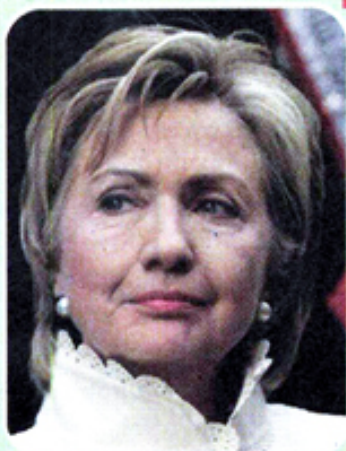


New Year revelry claimed the lives of three persons in Chennai. A five star hotel had put up a platform over the swimming pool and had allowed guests to dance on it. Overcrowding and thumping resulted in the collapse of the platform and several were badly injured besides those who died. Most of the revellers were drunk and there was total lack of restraint, resulting in the tragedy.





• Assassinated!



• First woman President?

In the American system for Presidential elections, the Republicans and Democrats first elect their Presidential nominees from out of two or three contenders. This is known as primaries and is now in full swing in the U.S. The Democrats are

To Lead Pakistan!

“The cease-fire agreement with LTTE is no longer valid” announced the Srilankan government. The cease-fire was just on paper and the two sides were attacking each other ferociously. The LTTE had lost a couple of top ranking persons in air-raids and it retaliated by killing Sri Lankan Minister Dassanayake, by placing land mines to blow up his car, resulting in his death.



very much in the news since they have to choose between Hillary who may become the first woman President and Obama who may be elected as the first black President. The Republicans too are choosing their Presidential nominee but at present the excitement is all about Hillary and Obama.



**Mohit Kumar celebrates his
15th birthday on
feburary 8, 2008**

**We wish you a very very
happy birthday and a
prosperous future.**

-Aman, Mom, Dad and Friends.





I like your magazine Gokulam very much and I've always been a great fan of it since I was small. I want to wish 'a very happy new year' to all the members of Gokulam.

- Andrie Amak Bagang,
Std.X, V.K.V.Vihar,
Seijosa,
Arunachal Pradesh

I am Alekhya from Hyderabad and am a regular reader of Gokulam. I like Pottering Around the most. I even created my website according to the

I am a subscriber and Gokulam always reaches me only after the 10th of every month. I want to participate in the com-

Gokulam Helped Me

steps given in your magazine in Computer Saga! Thank you Gokulam, for everything.

- Alekhya, Std.X,
St. Ann's High
School, R.C.Puram,
Hyderabad -
500 032

petitions. Please reach me the magazine before the 5th.

- Sudershanand Kashyapan
Shirpur - 4254051
(We'll do our best for you - editor)



Gokulam is a spectacular magazine. It's an ocean of values. Every issue is interesting and the facts are mind-storming. Appreciate the whole Gokulam team for bringing out such an outstanding magazine.

- H.Nirmal, Std.IX,
Pon Vidyashram,
Chennai - 600 041

I am a new reader of Gokulam. At first I was not interested in reading the magazine. But, my father made me read it once and from then I have reached out for it every month!

- G.Nandhan, Std.VIII,
Adarsh Vidya
Kendra, Nagercoil



Hai Gokulam! I am

Create a Web-site!

Akshaya.P.S, a new fan of yours. You are simply wonderful. I feel that this book is very economical at 10 rupees, with many features. Hats off!

- P.S.Akshaya,
Std.VIII,
Sri Sarada Secondary School, Chennai

We are a very great fans of Gokulam. We have been reading it for the past one year. It helps us to improve our language. We like creative corner, grandmaworm, Hello Doctor and jokes very

much. Can we send stories without pictures?

- R.Harshitha, Std.V,
D.Bhavani Shree , Std.VI,
Ida Scudder School, Vellore
(Yes, Harshitha and Bhavani Shree, you may send stories without pictures editor)

I have improved my vocabulary and learnt new words on reading Gokulam. I eagerly wait for it every month. I read it out to my younger sister too.

- V.V. Bhanumathi, Std.VII, The Hindu
Sr.Sec.School, Chennai - 20

I liked Mini Gokulam in January 2008 issue. Thank you!

- S.Varsha, Std.III,
Sri Sankara S.S.S, Chennai



Dear Grandma,
My mother says
that children should be
independent from stan-
dard V. How does it
help?

- A.Aishwarya, Coonoor

Dear Aishwarya,

It is not possible for children aged



GHOST STORIES



ten or eleven to be totally independent of their parents. In fact children are dependent on their parents until they start earning and are confident of living on their own. What your Mom probably means is that you should not be dependent on her for small and sundry things and that you should learn to look after yourself. You shouldn't expect your mother to wake you up in the morning, give you a bath, comb your hair or goad you to study well. You should learn to keep your clothes and other belongings safely and neatly. This is akin to the period when tiny birds start growing wings and hop about. This

builds confidence in you and prepares you to be completely independent in the years to come. Don't forget that a lot of responsibility arises out of independence. The latter becomes meaningless without the former.



My friends have websites. They tempt me to create one for myself. I feel it is unsafe for children of our age to do so. What is your opinion?

- Meenakshi, Mumbai

I am fifteen years old and behave like a mature person but at times I become a young girl and indulge in mischief! How am I to cope up with this situation?

**- Purnima Tiwari,
Chattisgarh**

Dear Purnima,

I know of people who are much older than you and yet behave like children! There is nothing wrong in being young at heart even though one may grow older and older. Actually it is a blessing! A

AND LOST SLEEP!

Dear Meenakshi,

Millions of children all over the world, have internet connections, websites and Email addresses. While there is nothing wrong in this, one should also remember that there is a negative aspect in all these. Not only children but also adults all over the world are misguided and cheated through the internet. But the positive aspects outweigh the dangers. So, I would suggest that you make best use of internet and other facilities available in your home but always under parental supervision.



little bit of mischief, prank or teasing in a jovial vein is always welcome so that everyone has a hearty laugh. But be sure that the mischief or prank is harmless and does not





hurt anyone either physically or mentally. Some people are very sensitive and you must avoid hurting their feelings.



The girls in my class do not believe me though it is two years since I joined this school. But they believe the words of a girl who has been admitted recently. This girl is not good at studies and she talks nonsense. Can you help me please?

- P.S.Akshaya, Chennai

Dear Akshaya,
Being friendly comes naturally to some people while others find it a difficult art to be practised to perfection. A real friend is one who is honest and not one who fibs and makes others believe it. But sincerity should also be coated with pleasantness. If you are harsh while being honest, your classmates will avoid you,



while they will crowd around a fibber who exudes charm! So, try to please everybody with politeness and a gentle smile while being true to them.



A few days ago I read a ghost story which was very scary. From that day I'm not able to sleep peacefully. Please suggest a way out.

- S. Poorna Priya, Ashok Nagar,

- Darshana N.Dewda, Dombivli

Dear Poorna and Darshana,

Ghost stories have been haunting this world from time immemorial. They are written not because the writer believes in ghosts but because they are gripping and fascinating to the reader. The average person always wonders about the unknown, be it outer space or life after death. Writers and producers exploit this weakness in man by creating spine chilling ghost stories and movies. Take my word for it!

There is no such thing as a ghost anywhere in this world. For deep sleep, exercise daily, drink a cup of warm milk before going to bed and train your mind, to think of something pleasant while dozing off!

**Love,
 Grandmaworm**

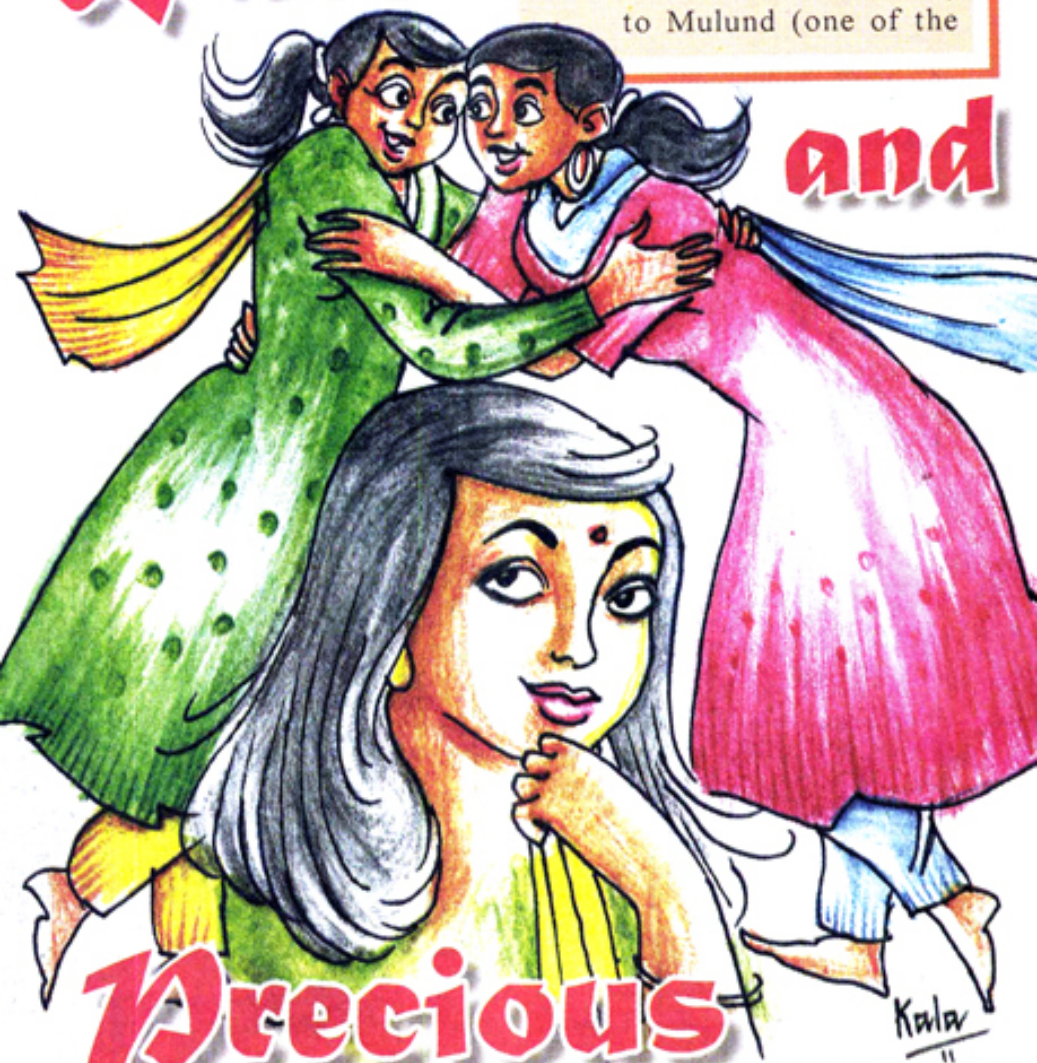


It Happened One Day

It was a warm Sunday morning - 24th August, 2000. I remember this particular day vividly, because this was the last day I met Tina Sharma, a close childhood friend of mine. I say this because I was shifting out of Ambarnath (a small town in the interior of Maharashtra) to Mulund (one of the

Rare

and



Priceless

Karla
11

But life always has something extraordinary in store for us!



biggest suburbs in Mumbai). I bid a tearful good-bye to all my beloved friends including Tina, of course, and little did I know what lay in store for me. Of course, even after I shifted, I kept in touch with Tina on the telephone. We often talked about school life, shared our problems with each other. We did fight at times, but both of us would somehow patch up.

Then it so happened that Tina told me that she was moving to Thane, a district in Maharashtra, in 2003. I could barely control my excitement on hearing the news, because Mulund and Thane are just a stop apart, if one were to travel by a train. But life always has something extraordinary in store for us. I lost her phone number, I didn't know where she was. Neither did I have her e-mail-address nor her house address. I was in a big dilemma. So, for almost

two years, I did not have any contact with her.

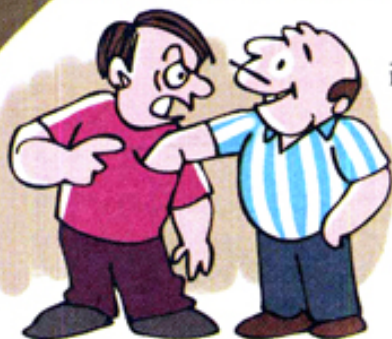
Anyway, the days rolled by. On 24th June, 2005. A Youth Meet was going to be conducted in Hiran-

andani apartments, in Thane. I made sure that I attended the meeting. So, my Dad and myself proceeded to Thane. The drive from Mulund to Thane was awesome. We were having a great time. Besides, I was excited about the Meet too. Just as I was about to enter the apartments, my eyes fell on the name plate. It read-TINA.S.SHARMA. I said to myself 'No way! Is this really happening?' I ran upstairs without a thought for my poor Dad who was waiting for me and banged on the door. And guess who opened the door? None other than Tina herself! I gave her a big hug. And the icing on the cake was that, she, too was participating in the youth meet!

I can never forget this particular day in my life! Truly, friendship is something very precious and rare!

- S. Smriti,
Sri Sri Ravishankar Junior
College, Bengalooru

Jokes



Ram: Why are you putting your hand into my pocket?

Shyam: I wanted to borrow your pen.

Ram: Why, didn't you ask?

Shyam: I don't talk to strangers.

- Pallav Ghose, Std.VIII,
St. Vincent's Convent School,
Balasore, Orissa.

Teacher: Sunil, can you tell me anything about the great scientists of the 18th century?

Sunil: They are all dead, sir!

- Rupai, Std.VIII,
G.G.S.School,
Kolkata

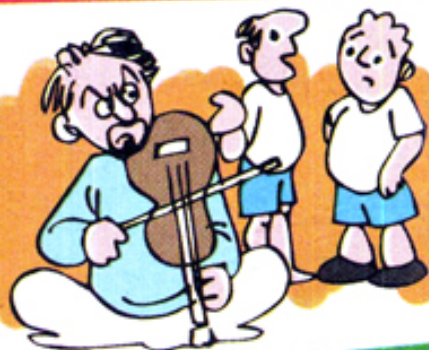


Laugh Away!

"Why was the music teacher angry?"

"The kids were always passing notes!"

- Krishnaveni, Std.IX, The Oxford
Senior Sec.School, Bengalooru



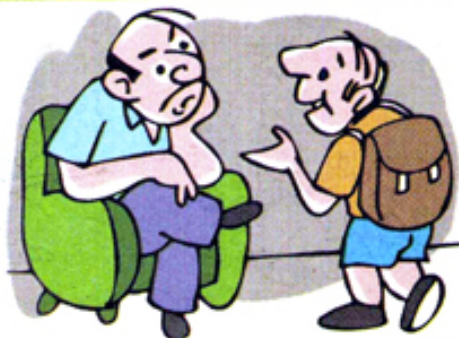
Father: Gopal, How are your marks at school?

Son: They're under water.

Father: Gopal, What do you mean?

Son: Below 'C' level.

- S.Sindhuja, Std.VIII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hebbal,
Bengalooru



TREASURE AHoy!

7

Story, Pictures : DHARMA



As the team reached the bottom...

Hands up all of you! Hal Hal You're truly trapped aren't you?!

Don't try any of your dirty tricks. One move, and I'll shoot you dead like dogs! Out with it! Where is the treasure?

As they tried moving Rana pulled the trigger!

What on earth is happening...? Look! This is unbelievable... The bullet could not have caused this wide a chasm... Is it an earth quake...?

Indeed not! The impact has opened up a secret passage, I am sure...

Lara acted quickly to disarm a stunned Rana.



At gunpoint...

Rana was overpowered.

Follow me and mind your step... It is pitch dark in here...

But, I think I see some light, though still far ahead.

They walked through the secret passage.

Don't try your dirty tricks or I will shoot you through your pumpkin head...

At the end of the passage...

22
The treasure that Dingora amassed! It's true! We've found it!

Hurrah! Three cheers! We have not slogged in vain after all.

We should go back soon and report to the chief!

But we have a problem on hand... What do we do with this creep now...?



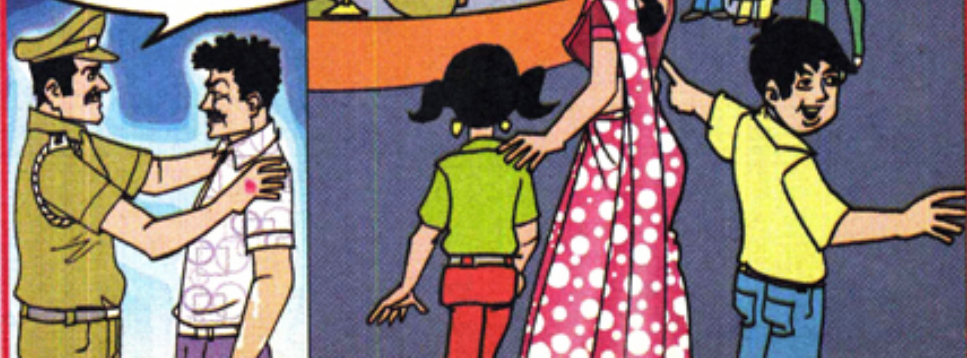
At the High command...



... and then we found Dingora's treasure at the bottom of the well...

Dingora's Treasure became exhibits at a museum...

Well done, Sidhu! Your team will be promoted. You deserve a special incentive...



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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Space
for Children
to Share...

Read
World
Over!



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Well, if you have been watching television all the time, aren't your eyes hurting and aren't you feeling lazy? Then, for a change, read books.

Yes, books are our ever - lasting, friends. Yes, They are everywhere from education to recipies! Books consist of information, or a good story. Reading books improves our knowledge. It will also help us improve our language skills. Whenever you feel bored, take a book and read it. Not only is it a good pastime, it also activates your brain.

Some books like a dictionary or an encyclopaedia are reference books, which help us to find meanings, while an Atlas helps us to find places in a map.

Books with colourful pictures will attract even a small child. Some books are black and white but are packed with knowledge.



Books - Our Never-Failing Friends!

Books are treasure troves and so vast and rich that it becomes humanly impossible to grab even a tiny part, because life, in comparison to the vastness of the treasure, is too short.

Books are our best companions because through them we get a chance to live with the people of the past, share their rich thoughts and ideas, gain from their experience and achieve and enhance our aspirations.

- M.G.Manjari,
Std.VIII, Montfort
Centenary
Academy
Mat.School,
Kanchipuram



It was a few minutes past midnight when Jassy suddenly felt she heard something. Initially she thought it was the wind blowing across the window shutters but when she tried to come out of her sleep and listen she could hear the sound of a key turn in the pad-

they heard the sound of footsteps retreating. They quickly rushed to the window and flung the shutters open to see if they could catch a glimpse of the intruder. All they could see was a dark silhouette which quickly disappeared around the corner.

Cottage Number

lock. Someone was trying to open the cottage door from outside. She instantly leapt from her bed and hopped over to Emilda's on to her left. The Mangalorean woke up with a gentle start and when Jassy pointed at the door knob, she sat upright, startled.

"Is it a joke again?" she whispered.

"Could it be Varun at one of his crazy tricks?"

"Quite possible." Jassy whispered back.

"Let's get bold enough and ask."

"Hello! Who is there outside the door?"

Emilda raised her rather trembling voice. "Whoever it is will be taken to serious task, mind you."

"Yes, and we don't like these kind of awful jokes." Jassy butted in rather shakily.

Before the girls could raise their voices again,

Geetha Canpadee

13

A vertical illustration of a doorway with a yellow archway. The number '13' is written in large, red, stylized font above the doorway. To the right of the doorway, a small yellow light fixture is visible on the wall.

Serial Chapter-3

If it was morning, probably they would have rushed after the prowler but somehow in the stillness of the night they didn't even dare open the door of the cottage and peep out.

"Do you think it was Varun?" Jassy asked with a doubt surfacing. "But the silhouette didn't look like him."

"How can you be sure? We just caught a fleeting glimpse!" Emilda pointed as she slumped on to her bed with a heave. "Moreover, he disappeared round the bend

that leads to the cottage where the boys stay."

"May be it's somebody else. Did we not see that almost all the cottages are occupied?"

"Hmm, quite possible; but then why does someone want to disturb us in this manner?"

"Not just disturb, he was trying to break into the cottage and that's pretty serious."

"But then where could he



have got the keys? We have one set with us already and the other set is safe at the reception desk."

"Do you think it could be one of them at the recep....."

"Hey, come on Jassy, let's not come to conclusions without any proof on hand. All these people

been put up at some other cottage, the pranksters would still have got onto us."

"And now I don't think there is any other cottage empty." Sonali pointed out sensibly. "It's just a matter of five more days and this place seems to be safe

"This Cottage no.13 seems to be an

here seem to be decent and genuine and I'm sure they will not get into such an unhealthy situation. It's a matter of their reputation afterall!"

"I think you are right Emilda. It could still be the cheeky Varun, for all said and done. So, let's forget it and not make a big issue."

"You are right. But tomorrow we need to confront Varun and get the truth out. He can't keep making a fool of us, and have the last laugh always."

"Of course. We will teach him a lesson very soon" Jassy declared and the girls got back to their beds feeling a lot more relieved.

The next morning when they told the night's happening to the other two girls, they were startled.

"Didn't I tell you this Cottage no.13 seems to be an unlucky one!" Raksha muttered. "I think we better tell Partha Sir to change our place."

"Ah, don't be so superstitious Raksha." Emilda put her foot down. "It has got nothing to do with the cottage. Even if we had

and secure as compared to some of the other outdoor camps."

"You are right." Emilda agreed. "It's just that we need to find out if Varun is behind all this as it looks likely to be."

"Come on, we are getting late." Jassy intervened at this juncture. "Once we are through with the cooking session, we will confront the boys."

The culinary contest was an absolute delight. The children, most of whom were trying their hands at cooking for the first time, were getting excited as and when they finished preparing the items assigned to their groups.

"Umm! It tastes yummy too!" they exclaimed, dipping their fingers into the dishes.

"So one job assured, incase you fail to make it through studies." Mr.Parthasarthy joked.

"Why not, that's a great idea!" Varun exclaimed as the girls glanced at him with distaste.

"Afterall why do you earn? To

eat, isn't it?" he added with a chuckle as the other boys gave him a hi-fi on that.

Once the cooking was done and the items displayed over the dining



unlucky one!"

table, marks were awarded on the basis of taste and presentation. However Mr.Parthasarthy didn't reveal the winner's name.

"It'll add on to your total marks." He declared. "You've got still many a thing to do and let me remind you that this evening you'll be appearing on stage in your regional costumes and performing accordingly."

"Apart from the Cultural Camp organizers we'll also have audience from the other Kala kshetras witnessing the programme" he added, ticking a right on one of the papers in his hand. "So, see to it that you give your best performance. And now for the rest of the afternoon you are free to do whatever you like."

The girls already had an agenda. When they were through with their lunch and the coordinator left to attend to some other work, they took it on the boys.

"You think you are too smart, isn't it Varun?" Jassy darted at

the chuckling boy. "That you can try to scare us and get away with it!"

The boy didn't seem to take the statement seriously.

"Last night we identified you running away after having attempted to open our cottage door." Emilda attacked. "And when we boldly asked who was at the door, you just slipped into the dark."

"My, my, what's the matter with these girls?" Varun began to whistle. "Where are they getting such wonderful ideas from?"

"Don't act innocent Varun." Jassy seemed annoyed. "Why don't you come out with the truth?"

"Well the truth is that you girls are good at making mountains out of molehills." Varun got into his cheeky mood. "First you dream and start imagining and then you imagine and start dreaming, am I not right boys?" and he turned to give a hi-fi to his counterparts.

"Listen Varun, we are serious." Jassy and Emilda spoke together in one voice. "If you don't own up, we might have to report to Partha Sir."

"Hey, what nonsense are you speaking eh!" the boy became really serious. "Why would I want

to come knocking at your cottage in the middle of the night? If I want something I would be confronting direct and straight and not like a cowardly snooper."

"Varun is right." Rajeev came to his aid. "Infact, last night we boys were all awake much after twelve playing an interesting game of Battle-ship."

"Oh, then who was it trying to open our cottage door?" it was the turn of the girls to get perplexed once again.

"Probably it was someone having missed his way in the dark, landed up in front of your cottage" Anik observed intelligently.



"Quite possible!" Suresh added. "That's why he was not able to turn the wrong keys quickly."

"But why did he run away like a thief?" the girls still had a question.

"Then who was it trying to open our cottage door?"

"Why not? The poor fellow must have got the shock of his life when you both shouted 'Who is at the door.' Varun pointed getting back to his cheeky mood once again. "The guy must have thought there are some hidden ghosts inside and took to his heels."

Everybody laughed at the joke and the girls began to feel much lighter. Probably the boys were right. It must have been a mistake by a confused tourist who had strayed away in the dark.

But little did they know that there was someone lurking, waiting carefully for a next chance to carry out his motive.

(To be continued)

Quick Quick!

Where do ghosts live?

In their terror-ty (Terrority)

Which bird says 'Quick, Quick...?'

A duck with hiccups

- V. Aishwarya, Std.VII,
BVB's Nagarjuna Vidyaniketan,
Bengalooru





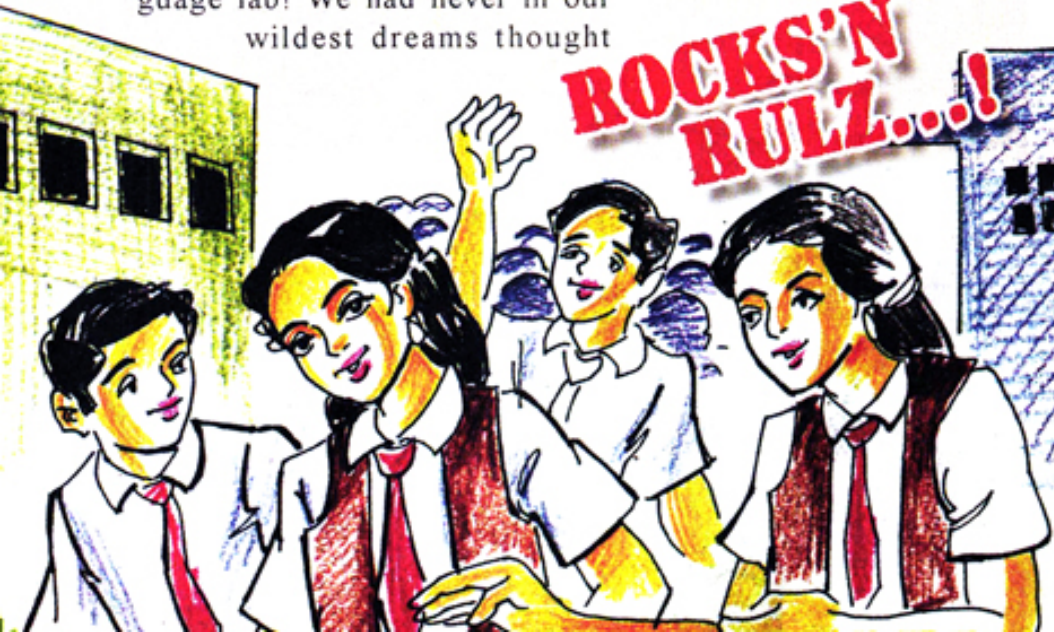
On 14 November, everyone at school was really excited because it was children's day and we had a new principal too. We expected a change in the routine but to our disappointment, senior classes were not allowed to attend the children's day celebrations along with classes 1 to 8. We were told that there was a surprise in store for us on 23rd, after our exams were over. We expected it to be a game or some old-fashioned stuff. But still we wanted to check it out. So after the last exam (only for Sanskrit students) we all asked our teachers what the so called 'Surprise' was, and to our amazement they told us that they would be showing us the movie Chak De India in the school language lab! We had never in our wildest dreams thought

that we would watch a movie in school with friends and seniors. It was great fun. Each time something exciting happened on screen we would howl, whistle, scream, clap, especially when the girls beat up the boys (in the film). We had great fun. Our principal Mrs. Mrinalini turned out to be a principal!

It was a dream, which thanks to our principal and alumni came true. "Soda, Lemon, Ginger, Pop, K.V.IIT on the top". My school not only rocks but also 'RULZ...'

- Swagatika, Std. IX,
K.V.IIT, Chennai

**ROCKS'N
RULZ....!**





*Here's a
profile of
Dr. Salim Ali
who popularised
bird watching
as a pleasure-filled activity!*

The Indian Birdman, Dr. Salim Mozuddin Abdul Ali was one of the world's leading ornithologists. His passion for bird-watching was so strong that he would travel to even the remotest places to pursue his hobby.

Dr. Salim Ali was born on 12 November 1896 in Bombay. Once, when he was just ten, he shot a sparrow with his air-gun, but the bird seemed unusual. It had a yellow patch on the throat. Wanting to identify it, he went to the Bombay Natural History



Society. He was surprised to see that there were about a dozen species of sparrows including the one he had shot. Thus, he was initiated to this amazing hobby of bird-watching.

He went to Berlin to study ornithology. Back in India, he observed birds in their natural habitat. In 'The Book of Indian Birds' he wrote about his observations and gave a boost to bird-watching in India. He co-authored, 'The Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan' with Dr. S. Dillon Ripley. It has observations about more than 2000 birds in the country.

In 1976, he was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan. The same year, he also won the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conserva-

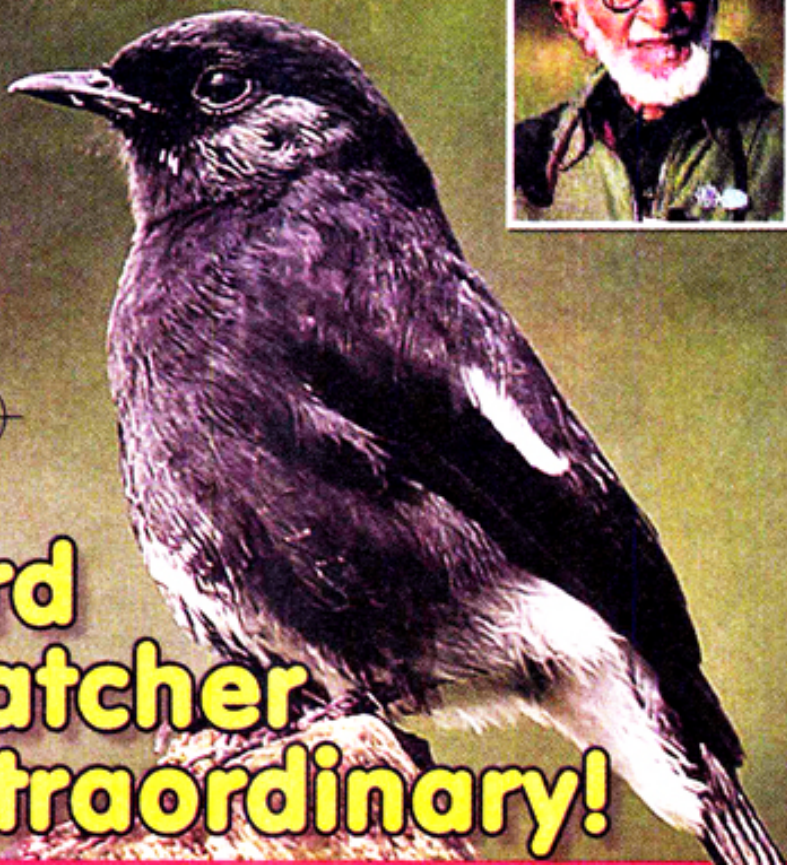
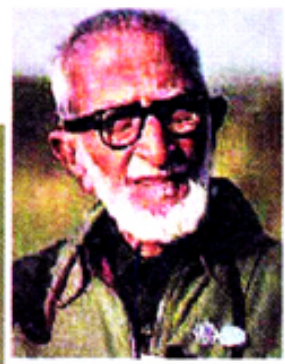


tion Prize. The Indian Government honoured him by nominating him as a member of the Rajya Sabha. He has narrated his life with birds, in his autobiography, 'Fall of a Sparrow'.

The great ornithologist passed away in 1987. Encouraging bird watching among the people, he said, "All you need is an inexpensive pair of binoculars, a notebook, a pencil and an ample stock of patience and dedication."

His yearning for birds even in old age was really amazing. He travelled all over the country on his bird watching surveys. Why, it is claimed that there is hardly any place in the country where his heavy rubber shoes, have not left their mark.

- M. Shiva Prakash, Std. IV,
Sudarshan Vidya Mandir,
Bengalooru



**Bird
Watcher
Extraordinary!**

QUIZ

CORNER



- I
1. Which insect can survive an atom bomb blast?
 2. Which colours are not liked by mosquitos?
 3. Name the animal which has no sight though it has eyes?
 4. Which is the national animal of Russia?
 5. Name the creature that has no eyes?

- R.S.Arun, Std.V, Shri Krishnaswamy Matriculation Hr.S.School, Chennai

- II Find the missing number:

3	2	4
?	8	27

- Gloria Peter Lazar, Std.VIII, Grace Academy, Solapur

(II) Ans: 64 Reason: $2^3 = 8, 3^3 = 27, 4^3 = 64$

5. Earthworm

(I) 1. Cockroach, 2. White and yellow 3. Bat, 4. Bear,

Answers:

FUN RIDDLES!

1. What did the mango tell the man?
2. What is POT-at-To?
3. Which is a mathematician's first problem?

- A.Sesha Sai Kashyap,
Std.VIII,
St.Joseph's Public School,
Hyderabad



- Answers**
1. Man, go!
 2. Simple... it's POTATO!
 3. He cannot put a square meal into his round stomach

Smart Collection!

Here's a collection of smart questions...
See if you can outsmart them with your answers!

- 1) Why did Mickey Mouse get shot?
- 2) What's the last thing you take off before going to sleep?
- 3) Who was bigger, Mr.Bigger or his son?
- 4) Why did Robin Hood steal from the rich?
- 5) What do you call a city with 2,000 eggs?
- 6) How can you tell a train went by?
- 7) Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
- 8) What starts with a P, ends with an E, and has a million letters in it?

- T.M.Shilpa, Std.IX, H.C.C.V, Chennai



- Answers:**
- 1) Because Donald Ducked! 2) Your feet off the floor!
 - 3) His son... he was a 'little Bigger'. 4) Because the poor didn't have any money!
 - 5) New 'York' City! 6) It leaves its tracks behind!
 - 7) Because then it would be a foot! 8) Post Office!

Hello Children!



To get your Mini Gokulam....

Step 1: With the help of an adult, bend back the stapler pins on pages 40-41. Carefully remove pages 37 to 44. Now, push the stapler pins back carefully to place without hurting yourself.

Step 2: Fold and cut pages along the dotted line as instructed on page 37. The bottom half of page 37 will

now become the first page of your Mini Gokulam and the top half of the same page will turn into the last page of Mini Gokulam... Got it...?

Step 3: Now, check to see if the sequence of pages is in order and then staple them together.

Your Mini Gokulam is ready!

Enjoy the activities and use the greetings to wish your friends!

(I have created this greeting with help from Gokulam,
the monthly magazine for children. You may subscribe to
Gokulam at subscription@kalkiweekly.com)

from:.....

Wish you a Very Happy

Dear.....

47-NP, Jawahar Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal Chennai 600 032

The Magazine for Children

GOKULAM



Fold and cut here

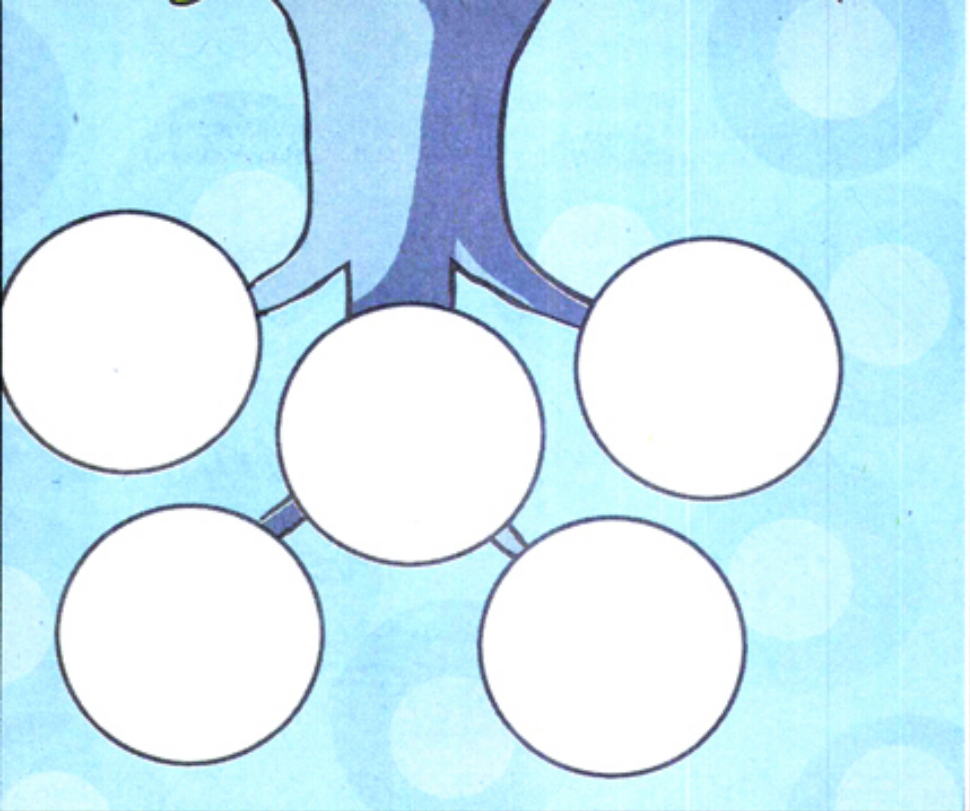
ACTIVITY BOOKLET

7 Greetings
for your Friends



**Mini
GOKULAM**





Dear Readers.....



This month's Mini - Gokulam has seven activity pages for you to work on. Follow the instructions carefully and you will have on hand seven lovely little greeting notes which you can cut out (along the straight black rules on the sides), fill up and post to your friends when the time comes.

Page 3: Colour the picture according to the scheme given.

Page 5: Draw colourful flowers on the stems to complete the picture.

Page 7: Draw two different heads to the two bodies to get an interesting contrast.

Page 9 : Colour the fish imaginatively.

Page 11: Join the dots to complete the picture.

Page 13: Colour only the dotted letters to form a birthday greeting.

Page 15: Paste pictures of your family members or your favourite stars/sportsmen to enrich the tree.



Concept: P.Sushma, Std X,
Dolphin Public School, Madurai.

Design: Pillai

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from:.....

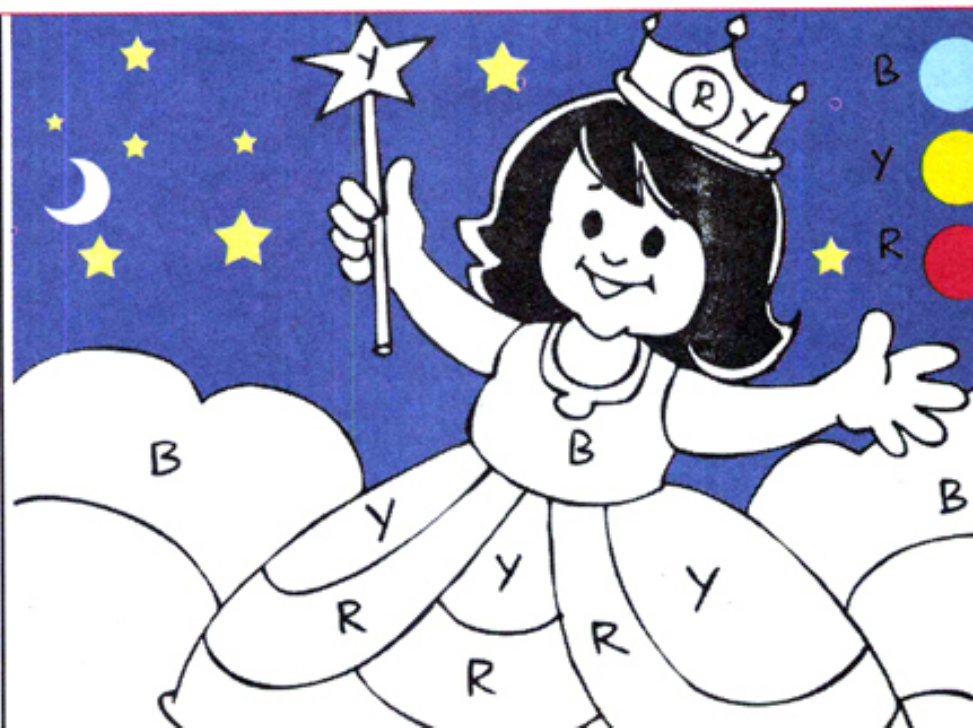
Wish you a Very Happy

Dear.....

47-AP, Jawaharal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal Chennai 600 032

THE Magazine for Children

GOKULAM





GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

47-NP, Jawaharal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal Chennai 600 032.

Dear.....

Wish you a Very Happy

from:.....

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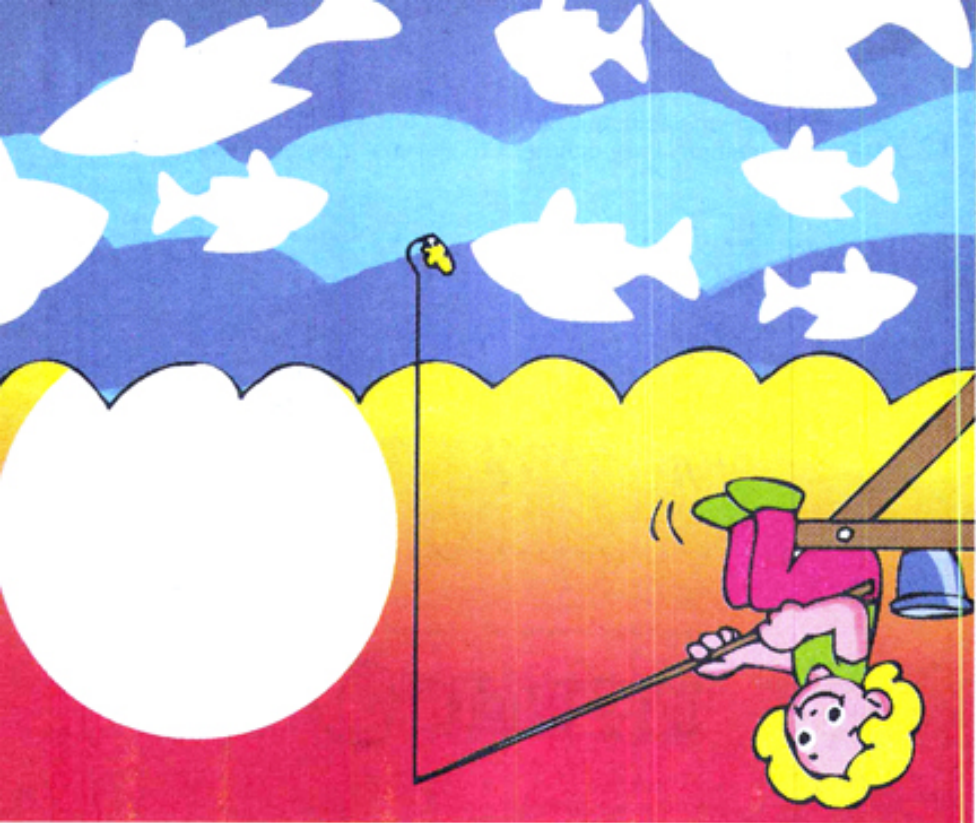
Wish you a Very Happy

Dear.....

47-AF, Jawahar Nehru Road, Ekkadurthangal Chennai 600 032.

GOKULAM
The Magazine for Children





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THE Magazine for Children

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal Chennai 600 032.

Dear.....

Wish you a Very Happy

.....

from:.....

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the monthly magazine for children. You may subscribe to
Gokulam at subscription@kalkiweekly.com)

from:.....

Wish you a Very Happy

Dear.....

47-HP, Jawahar Natar Road, Ekkadurangal Chennai 600 022

GOKULAM
The Magazine for Children





GOKULAM
The Magazine for Children

47-NP, Jawaharal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal Chennai 600 032.

Dear.....

Wish you a Very Happy

from:.....

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Two persons were admitted in the same room in a hospital. One man was closer to the only window in that room. The nurse would make him sit for only one hour in a day.

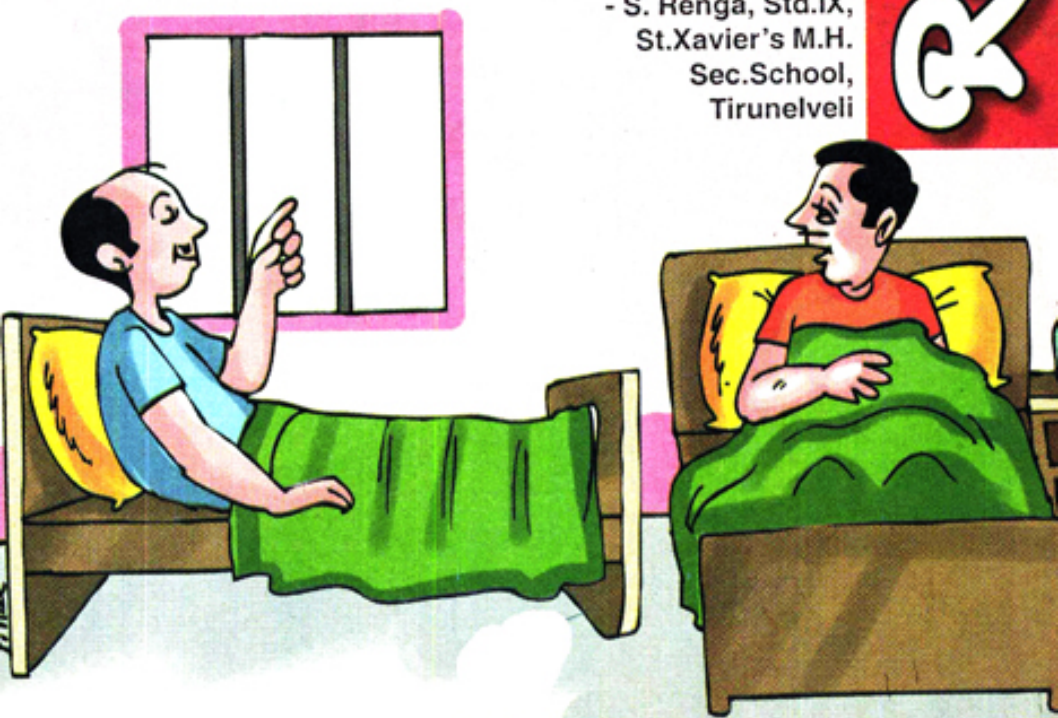
The other man could not sit up. The man who sat for an hour would see the world and describe it in a wonderful manner. The other man would imagine the scene.

One day the man near the window died. The nurse was shocked and had his body removed. The other man asked the nurse if he could be moved to that bed. The nurse helped him. Then he looked through the window. He could only see a white wall. He told the nurse about his deceased friend. She replied that he had been a blind man and had imaginatively spoken to him only to entertain him.

We will be overjoyed when we make others happy. Today is a 'gift' and thus called 'present'. So let's make others happy.

(Source - Internet)

- S. Renga, Std.IX,
St.Xavier's M.H.
Sec.School,
Tirunelveli



Joy

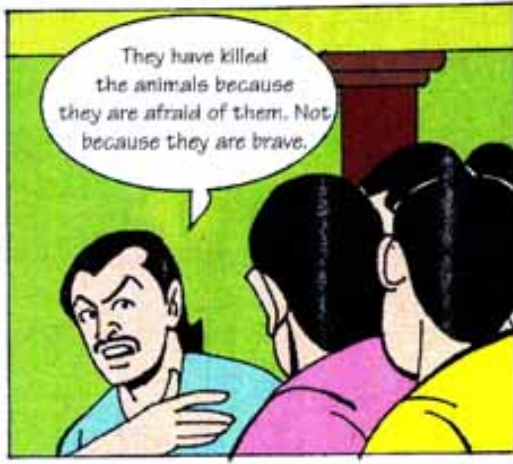
Real

A True Hero...

Jingle Bell Feature

King Khushalvarma was in search of a new bodyguard. Applicants rushed to the palace.



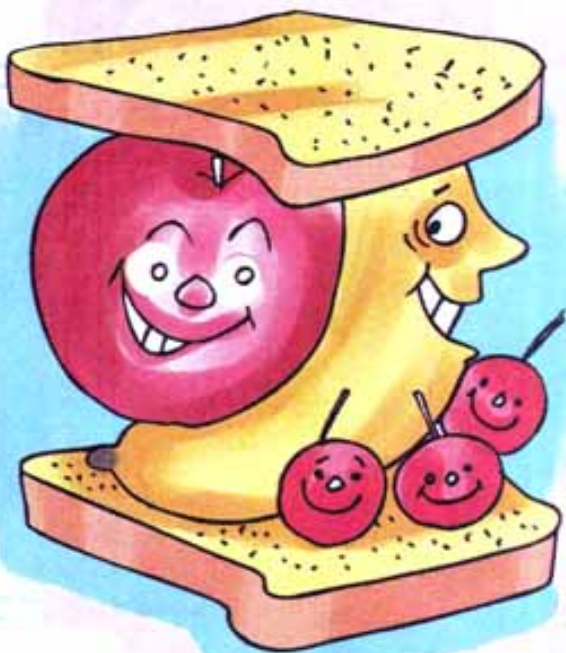




SNACK TIME



FRUIT SANDWICH



Ingredients:

Bread - 2 slices, jam, honey - 2 teaspoons, apple, banana and cherries.

Method:

1. Take a slice of bread, apply some jam on it.
2. Cut apple and banana into small pieces and place them on the slice. Take some cherries and place them too on the slices.
3. Pour some honey on it.
4. Place another slice of bread on top and serve.

- T.Vaishnavi,
Std. VI,
M.G.C.V, Trichy

BOILED CORN

Ingredients:

- Corn Kernels
- Water - ½ tumbler
- Pepper - 1 tsp
- Salt - 1 tsp
- Chilli Powder - ½ tsp
- Lemon - 1
- Butter - ½ tsp

Method:

- Take a pan
- Put the corn kernels and add water to it.
- Boil for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Remove the pan from the stove.
- Then add, salt, chilli powder, pepper, lemon and butter.
- Stir well.
- Your delicious corn dish is ready to be serve.

- Karshini Tyagarajan, Std VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai



Try out this crunchy dosa roll.

You need:

- Ghee Roast - 2
- Potato - 200 grams
- Oil - 1 tablespoon
- Chilli powder - 1 tablespoon
- Ghee - 1 tbs
- Asafoetida - a pinch
- Salt to taste

Method:

Pour 1 tablespoon of oil and ghee in a pan. Thinly slice the potatoes put them in the pan and fry. When fried, add salt, chilli powder and asafoetida and stir. Take the dosas and place the potato fry inside it and roll. Cut into four or five pieces. Serve hot with idli chilli powder.

- N.Harish Pranaav,
Std VIII, Salem

Dosa Roll



● **Shriyanka Shetty,**
Mangalore

? What is migraine?

How can we prevent it?

! A migraine is a type of headache that may be located on one side of the head. The pain may be accompanied by vomiting. Some migraine sufferers have a warning 'aura' which often causes problems with eyesight; for example, flashing lights, zig-zag lines and blank spots when trying to concentrate on something. Some people also suffer from other warning symptoms, such as

numbness or tingling on one side of the face, around the mouth or on one of the arms. It may last up to 1 hour before the headache starts. Migraine can be triggered by stress, certain foods, bright lights, flickering lights, loud noises, strong smells and lack of sleep.

Tips for prevention:

- * Exercise regularly.
- * Get enough sleep each night.
- * Learn to relax and reduce stress with meditation.
- * Avoid foods such as chocolate, nuts, peanut, butter, avocado, banana, citrus, onions, dairy products, cheese, smoked fish, chicken and fermented or pickled foods.

● **J.Vishnu, Vellore**

? Is it good for our eyes to lie down on the bed and read books?

! No harm in it, if you follow these precautions correctly: Light source should be behind you while you are reading. Avoid direct glare by using shielded light. Reading material should ideally be placed 12-14 inches away. Only bad effect is that reading books in this posture may induce sleep quickly. You should be aware of it.

● **Jain Raj, New Delhi**

? I have wrinkled skin on my face, hands and legs in



Dr.G.Ganesan



Is it Right to



winter. They look miserable. What should I do?

! This condition is called 'dry skin'. Massage your skin with any good oil or a moisturizing cream. Wet the skin lightly before applying to aid better absorption. Diet plays an important part in having a healthy skin. Eat a lot of greens, fruits and leafy vegetables. Drink plenty of water daily.

● P.Akshaya,
Chennai
? I often fall sick.

What is the reason? How can I prevent it?

! You have not mentioned what exactly your ailment is. There are several causes for sickness. You should find out the cause with the help of your family doctor and get treated accordingly. These are some general guidelines to have a good health. 1. Eat well but do not over-eat. 2. Avoid foods that contain a large amount of fat, sweets and cholesterol. 3. Eat a variety of foods to get all essential nutrients. 4. Maintain your ideal weight. 5. Drink plenty of pure water. 6. Exercise daily. 7. Keep your body and environment clean. 8. Get immunized according to your age. 9. Have a periodical health check up.

● L B. Venkatram, Navi Mumbai

? Does drinking cold water about 8-10 glasses a day cause acidity or indigestion?

! Very cold drinks or foods taken continuously for a period of months together may cause acidity that may lead to indigestion.

● L K. Jumi, Thane

? I am studying plus two. I have six small black spots on my face and neck. They are now growing. What should I do? I am getting a complex because of this problem. Please help.

! You probably have "melanocytic naevi". These are defects in which pigment forming cells called melanocytes increase in number and are present in clusters. These are flat to begin with but may increase in size as age advances. These spots are harmless. If they cause a cosmetic disfigurement, they can be removed by a plastic surgeon.

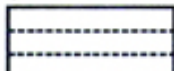


Read in Bed?



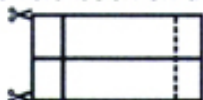
Try Your Own Envelope

Things required: one square sheet of paper, scissors and glue.

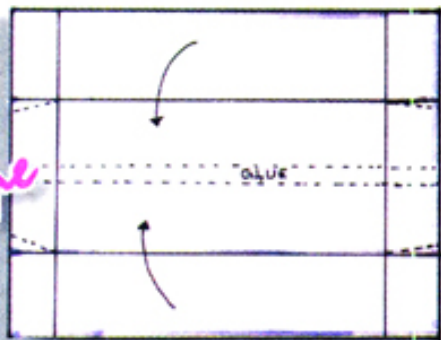
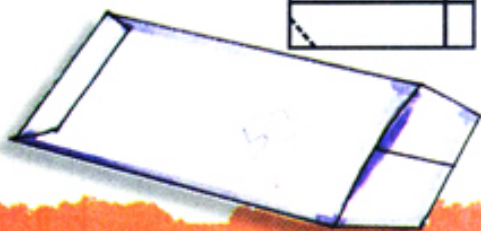
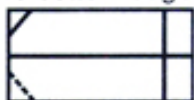


1. Fold the sheet of paper as indicated in drawing (A) Now paste the edges together.

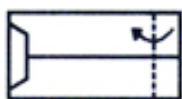
2. Cut the upper layer along the dots and fold back on the oblong.



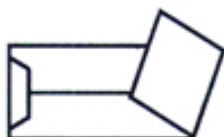
3. Fold in at the corners at both ends and glue only the bottom edge.



(A)



4. Turn the model.



5. So, your envelope is ready to keep things inside. Use the envelope to send your entries to Gokulam.

Source: Paper folding book (Book of Origami)

- A. Suganya, Std. XII,
Bharathi Vidya Bhavan,
Erode

Things needed:

1. Pebble
2. Chemical clay (colours of your choice)
3. Blunt knife
4. Black paint
5. Glue

Method:

1. Clean the pebble and dry it.

2. Coat it with a layer of black paint and dry overnight.

3. Take coloured clay, knead and spread it. (flat, circular shape like chappathis)

4. Cut it lengthwise (1.5 inches)

5. Take a strip and roll it. Now your pretty rose is ready. You can make more with different colours.

6. Repeat the first three steps with

Do people disturb you while you are trying to study for your examinations? Use a doorknob hanger to request silence.

What you need:

- Foam or sponge
- Scissors ● Paintbrush
- Palette ● Paper towels

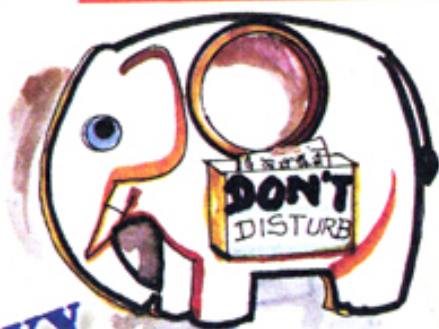
What you need to do:

1. You can make doorknob hangers of different shapes and sizes. Depending on how fancy your door is, choose the design of the hanger. Cut a rectangular shape from any foam, choose the colour depending on the animal or object that you would like.

2. Cut a circle on the top half of the foam, that's big enough to slip over your doorknob.

3. Also cut eyes out of the foam. Outline and paint the pupils black. Paint the inside of the eyes white to highlight them.

4. Glue eye sections together and



FUNKY DOOR-KNOB HANGER!

glue to the top edge of the door hanger. Glue leg pieces to the bottom back of the hanger.

5. Lightly paint cheeks in crimson colour. Paint the lips and tongue red. Outline the door hanger with black.

6. You can also make a small message box in the centre of the doorknob and write a message of your choice. If you are studying, you could mention that in the box and hope that none would disturb you.

- Bhargavi Gopalan, Std VII,
St. Francis De Salin School,
New Delhi

53



A Pebble with a Purpose

green clay, to make leaves. With a knife draw veins.

7. Dry the roses and leaves indoors, for four hours. Stick them on the pebble like a rose bush.

8. You can use it as a paperweight or gift it to your friend.

- S. Preethy, Std.VII, Padma
Seshadri S.S. School, Chennai



Time Management



Hello friends. Each and everyday is a precious day and it is God's gift to us. Hence, time is one of our most precious possessions.

Once lost, it is lost forever. With good planning time could be managed very effectively.

Time management is all about clearly setting down our priorities and making sure we achieve them at the proper time. Time is a limited resource and hence we have to make choices in the work to be completed.

● Maybe we are not managing our time. Time is managing us!

● Fools lose time and wise men find it!

54 ● A stitch in time saves nine!

● A busy man finds time to do all his work everyday. But a lazy man finds no time to do any work!

● We don't plan to fail, but we often fail to plan!

■ ■

Manage your time well to accommodate varied activities...!

■ ■



Here are some major 'time - eaters' in our daily routine:

- Constantly watching TV.
 - Chatting with friends all the time.
 - Mulling over yesterday's events.
- Tell yourself 'Past is Past'.
- Failing to maintain a checklist of 'work to be done today.'

Ways to use our time effectively:-

- Plan your day ahead by preparing daily and weekly schedules.
- Learn to say 'No' when you cannot do it really.
- Work smarter.
- Know what is to be done and do it, otherwise don't accept to do it.
- A place for everything and everything in its place.
- Decide whether the time spent would be worthwhile before you start.
- Do your work systematically
- Limit chit-chat and conversations and avoid unproductive activities.
- Practice 'self discipline' and make better use of leisure time.
- Do one job at a time.

Results of Time Management:

There will be increased efficiency, increased leisure time, more satisfaction, reduced stress, more time available for long term planning.

So friends, let us plan our time efficiently and be successful in our life.

- V.Shanmuga Preethi, Std. IX,
Noyes. M.H.S.S, Madurai



→
 “What do you call a bear with no ear?”
 “B”!

“What day do fish hate?”
 “‘Fry’ day”!



“What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?”

“Time to get a new fence!”

- R.Prabu,
 Besant Nagar,
 Chennai



Mother: Sita, Stop playing and help me in the kitchen.

Sita: Didn't you know child labour is a punishable offence Mom!

- S.Maragathavalli, Std.VIII,
 Vyasa Vidyalaya M.H.S.School,
 Chennai



Mama crow, Papa crow and three little baby crows lived in a nest on top of a tree in front of a house. Chikku was the naughtiest of the three baby crows.

One day, mama crow said, "Chikku, you are becoming naughtier by the day. It's dangerous to hurt others. Some day you will put all of us in danger."

Chikku didn't listen to mama crow. "Caw...Caw. My pranks amuse everybody. So I shall continue my mischief" Chikku said.

One day, Chikku saw a child playing in front of the house. He flew over to the child and pecked hard at the child's head.



"Ouch! A mean crow pecked me" cried the child in pain.

"These crows have become a nuisance" said the child's father. "Let me get rid of them." He took a long stick and struck the crow's nest down.

"Thud! CRASH!" The nest fell down. The crows barely escaped with their lives and flew in all directions, calling in alarm, "Caw! Caw!"

Later when the crow family had perched on another tree far away, mama crow said, "Chikku, look what you have done! You put even your innocent brothers into trouble."

Chikku realized how foolish and naughty he had been. From that day he became a good little crow.

- S.Gauthami, Tuticorin

THE PRICE OF CHIKKU'S MISCHIEF





Ashwin S.Menon,
Std.V,
National Public School,
Bengalooru



C.N. Keerthy,
Std.V,
Narayana Bhavan,
Gramam, Chelakkara

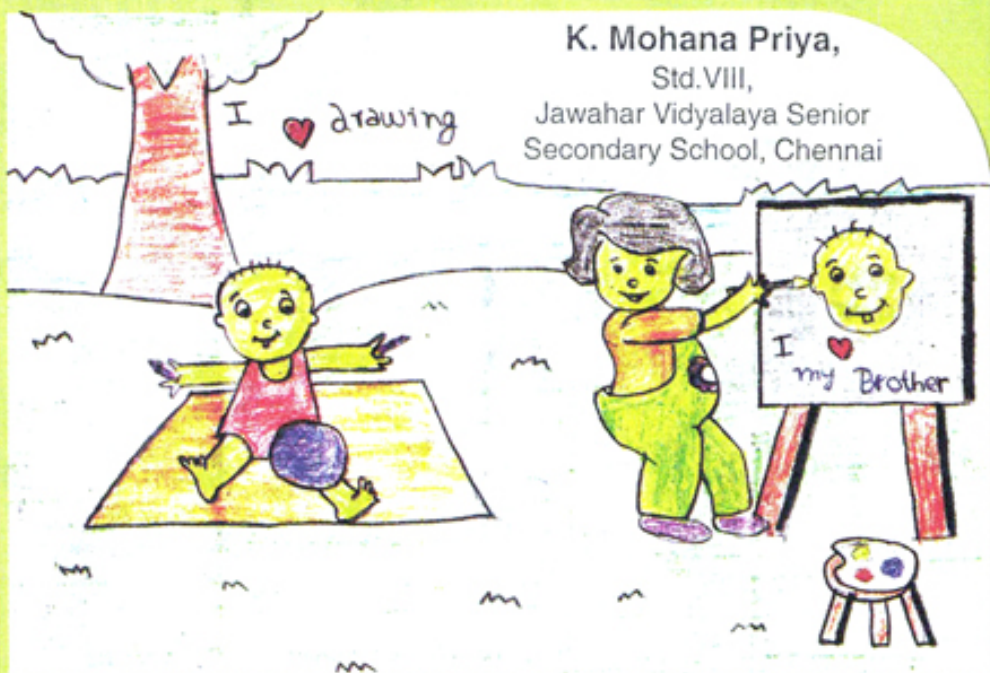
G.Vageesh, Std.VIII,
Chettinad Vidhyashram,
Chennai



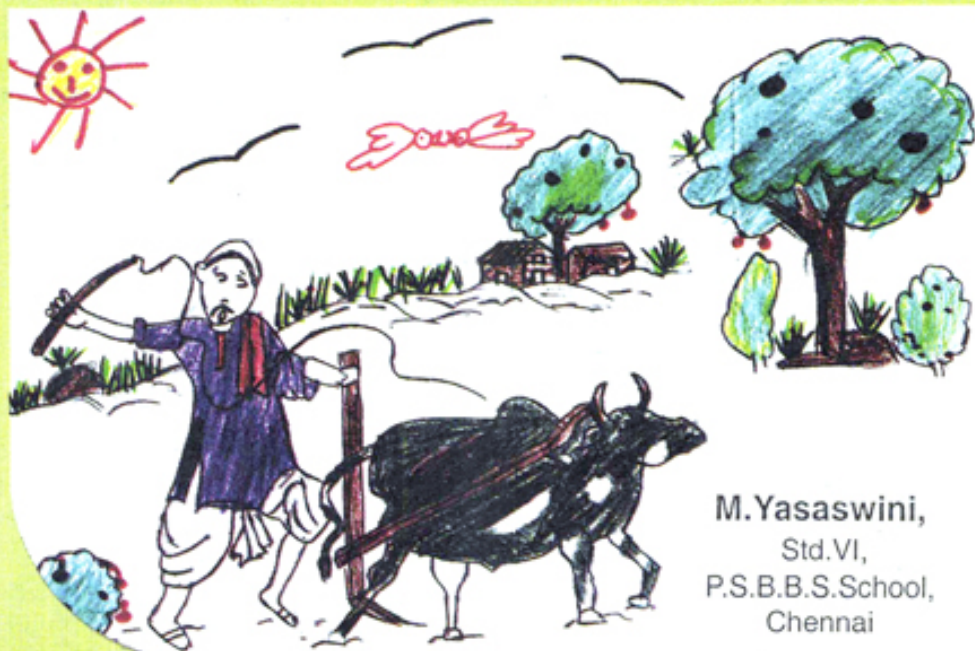
G.Sanjana,
Std.II,
M.V.P.Public School,
Visakhapatnam



K. Mohana Priya,
Std.VIII,
Jawahar Vidyalaya Senior
Secondary School, Chennai



Colour Burst



M.Yasaswini,
Std.VI,
P.S.B.B.S.School,
Chennai



“What a boring holiday! It doesn’t feel like those silly exams are over” exclaimed Manish.

Rohit said, “Really friends, our exams are over and we should have been enjoying - playing cricket - but this scorching heat has spoilt all our plans!”

“Hey, I’ve a great idea. Why don’t we all go to a hill-station for a few days and cool out?” said Amar.

Ramesh said, “Amazing idea, Amar. Let’s first seek permission from our parents.”

So saying they all went home.

Manish, Rohit, Amar and Ramesh were neighbours. They had just finished their Std XII examination and were looking forward to some adventure during the holidays. They decided to go to a place called Ningarh, several miles away from Dispur, in Assam. This place was a pinnacle of beauty. They planned their boarding and lodging after seeking the permission of their parents. The responsibility of bringing food was given to Manish and Ramesh. Rohit and Amar were asked to bring all the other things that they would need.

Finally the day dawned and they boarded the train from Lucknow heading for Dispur. It was really a long journey. After reaching Dispur they

THE

boarded a bus going to Nimgarh. They reached there in one hour. They were dumbstruck upon seeing the picturesque beauty of Nimgarh.

They took two rooms in a reasonably priced hotel. They quickly got ready and set out for the forest. They were mesmerised when they saw the fascinating waterfall.

They spread their bed-sheet on the green grass and laid out the delectable food. They had crunchy chocobiscuits, potato chips, ham burgers and bottles of lemonade. After a hearty

fil a mission. Some of our fellow mates are locked up in jail. Today, according to the plan we must hold all visitors in captivity. We will ask the government to fulfill our demand to release our friends and arrange for a safe passage for us so that we can get back to our outfit. We will threaten to kill all the visitors."

Manish peeped through the trees and he saw several men dressed in a clumsy uniform. They decided to tell the police about it. Manish and Rohit tiptoed back to their friends and told them about this. Without a moment's delay they hired a taxi and went to the police station. Rohit told the police everything.

Luckily the police superintendant was also present there. He ordered all policemen to surround the area where the terrorists were spotted. All the terrorists were caught and thus great danger was averted.

DARING FEAT

breakfast, they set out again. They spotted the enchanting hills and beautiful valleys.

Amar and Ramesh were very tired. So they pitched a tent there and went to sleep. But Rohit and Manish couldn't do so. They set out to explore the forest.

After covering some distance, suddenly Manish and Rohit heard human voices. They heard, "Our outfit has sent us to ful-

The next day all newspapers published their daring act and sensational revelation and their name was forwarded for the bravery award. On 26th January, they were invited to Delhi and given the 'Bravery Award for children'.



- Manisha,
Std.VIII,
St.Agnes
school,
Kharagpur,
West Bengal



For Daddy!

When I was in Std VI, a funny incident occurred. One day, when I returned from school, I found my father feeling very bad because nobody was writing letters to him. I

A Red Letter Day in My Life

During the academic year 2006-2007, I went for a Geetha Chanting competition in Sree Ramakrishna Sevashramam and won the third prize. The prize distribution function was held two days after the competition. Captain Raju, the famous actor, was the chief guest. There were many distinguished guests on the stage. I felt very happy and excited to go up and receive the prize from Captain Raju. My name was called out and I went

decided to make my dad happy. The very next day I picked up some old letters and posted them in a nearby post box.

A post man came to our house with a bunch of letters, called my dad, confirmed the address and personally handed them over to him. Of course he collected a hefty fine for 'Re-posting' those letters. I got a sound scolding and later everybody laughed at my expense!

- Addanki Sai Kashyap,
Std.VIII, St.Joseph's
Public School,
Hyderabad





towards the stage. When I stepped onto the stage, I began to feel nervous. But I somehow controlled myself. Captain Raju handed over the prize to me and I was in a hurry to get off the stage. When I sat beside my mother, I felt relieved. The next time, I went upto the stage was to receive our school trophy. This time since I went with all the other students of our school, I was not nervous. I felt very excited. It was a Saturday evening and I brought the trophy home. I sat watching it until I felt sleepy. It was a red letter day in my life.

- Anjana B.Kumar, Std.VII,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura

Happy to be in the J.R.C.

I was delighted to join the Junior Red Cross in my school this year. I had always admired their smartness and I was proud of my new uniform. I feel good when I can help. The junior students are lined up during functions and important occasions. The teachers teach us nice songs. I have become more confident after joining the Junior Red Cross.

- K. Divya,
Std.VII, Govt. Hr.S. School,
Vellore



115111



ATTENTION

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K.

books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by

Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection.

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs two months before the birthday.

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!

All GOKULAM Readers and Contributors!





Gullu's Crossword-7

CLUES

Across

1. This is passed on to teammates in a relay race (5)

3. The Almighty (3)

4. The month in between two months starting with 'M' (5)

5. Ocean (3)

8. His touch turned his daughter into gold (5)

9. Acceptance expressed (3)

11. The Holy book of the Christians (5)

12. Not wet (3)

13. Outlets where goods are sold (5)

Down

1. Courage (7)

2. Change 'Giri on' to get the beginning (6)

3. Neither solid nor liquid (3)

6. They follow questions (7)

7. Adjective denoting wasteful expense (6)

10. Watch the _____ and you can see stars (3)

Gullu's Crossword -5

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 5 (December 2007) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 6 will be published in the March 2008 issue.

1.K.S.Nityashree, Std.IV, Sri Kumaran's Children's Home, Bengalooru - 28

2. Ananda Sreenidhi, Std.III, Mount Carmel School, Dwarka, New Delhi.

3. V.C.Subbulakshmi, Std.V, Gautami Vidya Dhamam, Hyderabad -72



4. S.Preethy, Std.VII, P.S.B.B.S.S. School, Chennai - 78

5. M.J.Sundara Lakshmi, Std.VII, St.Ignatius Convent Hr.Sec.School, Palayamkottai.

Gullu's Crossword - 7 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms)

Age :

Class :

School :

*Residential Address :

Pin

Signature :

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

**The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 20.2.2008



Potter Devotion!

Now that book 7 is in our hands, J.K. no longer has to hold back any information about Harry Potter. With fourteen fans crowded around her in Edinburgh Castle in Scotland recently, J.K. told us the following exciting information:

An often asked question is what are Harry, Ron and Hermione doing now? J.K. said that Harry, along with Ron, is working at the Auror Department at the Ministry of Magic, and after all these years, Harry is now the department head.

"Harry and Ron utterly revolutionized the Auror Department," Rowling said. "They are now the experts. It doesn't matter how old they are or what else they've done."

a "really good place to be."

"They made a new world," Rowling said.

Luna Lovegood

Luna Lovegood, the eccentric Ravenclaw who was fascinated with Crumple-Horned Snorkacks and Ungubular Slashkilters, continues to march to the beat of her own drum after leaving Hogwarts.

"I think that Luna is now travelling

ROWLING GOES BEYOND THE EPILOGUE!

Meanwhile, J.K. said that Hermione, Ron's wife, is "pretty high up" in the Department of Magical Law Enforcement, despite the fact that she laughed at the idea of becoming a lawyer in the scene with Scrimgeour in *Deathly Hallows*.

"I would imagine that her brainpower and her knowledge of how the Dark Arts operate would really give her a sound grounding," J.K. said.

An important point for J.K. was that Harry, Ron and Hermione don't join the same Ministry of Magic they had been at odds with for years. In joining it, they revolutionize it and help evolve the Ministry into



the world looking for various mad creatures," J.K. said. "She's a naturalist, whatever the wizarding equivalent of that is."

But she isn't completely crazy. J.K. said that Luna comes to see the truth about her father, eventually acknowledging there are some creatures that don't exist.

"But I do think that she's so open-minded and just an incredible person that she probably would be uncovering things that no one's ever seen before," Rowling said.

Luna and Neville Longbottom?

When she was first asked about the possibility of Luna hooking up with Neville Longbottom several years ago, Rowling's response was: "Definitely not." But as time passed and she watched her characters mature, Rowling started to "feel a bit of a pull" between the unlikely pair.

Ultimately, Rowling left the question of their relationship open at the end of the book because doing otherwise "felt too neat."

Frank and Alice Longbottom

J.K. told the fans that, sadly, there is no chance that Neville's parents, who were tortured into madness by Bellatrix and Rudolphus Lestrangle, will ever leave St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies.

"I know people really wanted some hope for that, and I can quite see why because, in a way, what happens to Neville's parents is even worse

than what happened to Harry's parents," J.K. said. "The damage that is done, in some cases with very dark magic, is done permanently."

However, she said Neville finds happiness in his grandmother's acceptance of him as a gifted wizard and as the new herbology professor at Hogwarts.

Some lived, Some Died

In earlier interviews, J.K. had said that there was a character she had intended to kill in book five, "The Order of the Phoenix," but didn't. She admits now that this character was Ron's dad, Arthur Weasley.

"He was the person who got a reprieve. When I sketched out the books, Mr. Weasley was due to die in Book Five. I swapped him for someone else, and I don't want to say who, for the people who haven't read it. But I made a decision as I went into writing Phoenix that I was going to reprieve Mr. Weasley and I was going to kill someone else. And if you finish the book, I expect you probably know and someone else who is a father - I couldn't bear to kill him," J.K. said.

But there were also two characters that died who J.K. had not originally





planned to kill in the finale. She said, "Fred, Lupin and Tonks really caused me a lot of pain. Lupin and Tonks were two who were killed who I had intended to keep alive. It's like an exchange of hostages, isn't it?"

The Future of Hogwarts

J.K. said that "McGonagall was really getting on a bit," and nineteen years after the Battle of Hogwarts, there is an entirely new headmaster. Also, there is a new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, and that position is now as safe as the other teaching posts at Hogwarts, since Voldemort's death broke the jinx that kept a Defense Against the Dark Arts professor from remaining for more than a year.

J.K. didn't clarify whether Harry, Ron and Hermione ever return to school to finish their seventh year, but she did say she could see Harry making an appearance every now

and again to give the "odd talk" on Defense Against the Dark Arts.

The Confusing Ending, and More Info To Come

And for those readers who found chapter 34, (when Harry enters the forest to face Voldemort once and for all), difficult to read, J.K. said, she understands. It was extremely difficult to write, she says — the most difficult of all the chapters in the seven books.

"I had this enormous explosion of emotion and I cried and cried and cried," she said.

And while ending the series was also sad, it was also a bit of a relief. "It was this amazing cathartic moment — the end of 17 years' work," Rowling said of finishing the series, adding that Harry will "always be a presence in my life, really."

J.K. again confirmed she may eventually reveal more details in a Harry Potter Encyclopaedia, but even then, it will never be enough to satisfy the most ardent of her fans.

"I'm dealing with a level of obsession in some of my fans that will not rest until they know the middle names of Harry's great-great-grandparents," she said. Not that she's discouraging the Potter devotion!

"I love it," she said. "I'm all for that."

- Compiled by
Alekhyia, Std.X,
St. Ann's H.S., Hyderabad



Name: A.Vandana

Age: 17

Address: 34/A,
Suraj Bhar Tokas,
Prateek Market, New
Delhi.

Hobbies: Dancing,
reading story books,
contributing to Gokulam
and watching T.V.

Name: Musheer

Lahori

Age: 15

Address: R.no.
3683, Standard X,
Hoysala House, Sainik
School, Bijapur,
Karnataka - 586 102.

Hobbies: Surfing
and chatting on internet,
playing basket ball,
reading novels and mak-
ing friends.

Name: N. Sajida
Sultana

Age: 16

Address: No.115,
IIIrd Street, Kumaran
Colony, Vadapalani,
Chennai - 600 026.

Hobbies: Collecting
Potter merchandise,

reading novels, surfing the net, orkuting and the
best of all - making friends.

Name: Aishwarya V.N.Roy

Age: 13

Address: Raja Stores, 271/IV, Girl's School
Road, Chickballapur, Karnataka - 562 101

Hobbies: Dancing, reading Gokulam, reading
HP, listening to recent film songs.

Name: Tirthankar Mishra

Age: 14

Address: LB-54, Baragada Brit Colony,
Bhubaneshwar, Orissa - 751 018.

Hobbies: Playing cricket, watching cartoons,
listening to music,
computer
games.

Friends



Name:

R.M.Keerthana

Age : 11

Address : No.10,
First Cross, Rajaji
Nagar, Ariyalur
621 713.

Hobbies : Singing,
playing carrom, reading
books, listening to mu-
sic, dancing.

Name:

Sathya U.Pai,

Age : 9

Address : Sai Spa-

naan,16/296(1), Railview
Lane, Aluva - 683 101.

Hobbies : Cycling, playing video games, read-
ing Gokulam and story books.

Name: **D.Bhavani Shree**

Age : 11

Address : No.3, 3rd Cross Street, Vadevel
Nagar, Sankaranpalayam, Vellore.

Hobbies : Painting, drawing, table ten-
nis, shuttle cock, reading books.

Name: **R. Harshitha**

Age : 11

Address : No.10, 3rd Cross Street,
Vadevel Nagar, Sankaranpalayam, Vellore.

Hobbies : Playing games like badminton, bas-
ket ball, reading books.

Name: **Ms. S. Sharanya**

Age : 14.

Address : C003, Mantri Terrace, Bilekahalli,
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 076.

Hobbies : Coin collection, stamp collection,
reading Harry Potter, good mystery and horror
novels, surfing the net.

Name: **Inchara M.Shetty**

Age : 12

Address : 'Inchara', 3-11-858/1, Bikarnakatte,
Kandetlu, Kulshekar Po., Mangalore - 575 005.

Hobbies : Reading books, novels, drawing,
collecting keychains, cycling, making friends and
freaking out.

Name: **A. Anjana Gayathri**

Age : 13

Address : 3/3,21st Cross Street, Ashtalakshmi
Nagar, Aalapakkam - Porur, Chennai - 600 116.

Hobbies : Reading books (mysteries
and Harry Potter), surfing the net and
making friends.

**Write
Away!**





Benazir Bhutto

Date of birth:
June 21, 1953

Date of death:
December 27, 2007

Benazir Bhutto was born in Karachi, Pakistan in a prominent political family. At age 16, she left her homeland to study at Harvard's Radcliffe College. After completing her undergraduate degree at Radcliffe she studied at England's Oxford University, where she was awarded a second degree in 1977.

Later that year she returned to Pakistan where her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had been elected prime minister. But days after her arrival, the military seized power and her father was imprisoned. In 1979 he was hanged by the military government of General Zia Ul Haq.

Bhutto herself was also arrested many times over the following years, and was detained for three years before being permitted to leave the country in 1984. She settled in London, but along with her two brothers, she founded an underground organization to resist the military dictatorship. When her brother died in 1985, she returned to Pakistan for his burial, and was again arrested for participating in anti-government rallies.

She was elected Prime minister twice and held office till she was overthrown by a military coup and exiled from her own country.

She was killed when she came back to Pakistan to campaign as a candidate for the election.

(Compiled from Newspapers)

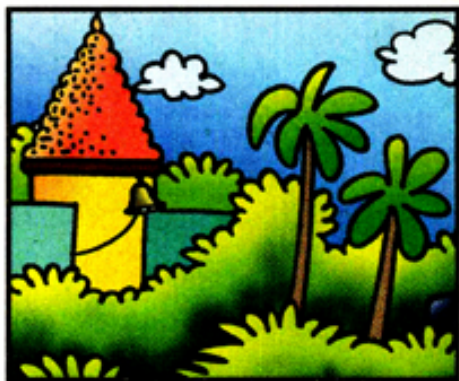
- S.Varsha, Std.VIII,
Ramniranjan Podar School, Mumbai

The Golden Bell

Story : P.Nandini, Std.VII, Adarsh Vidyalaya, Chennai. Pictures : Mahesh



In a beautiful green village...



... there was a temple, with a golden bell!



One day, the bell was stolen.



The villagers searched high and low.



Little Shyam heard the golden bell chime.



He followed the sound into a dense forest...



... and saw some wild monkeys playing with the golden bell!



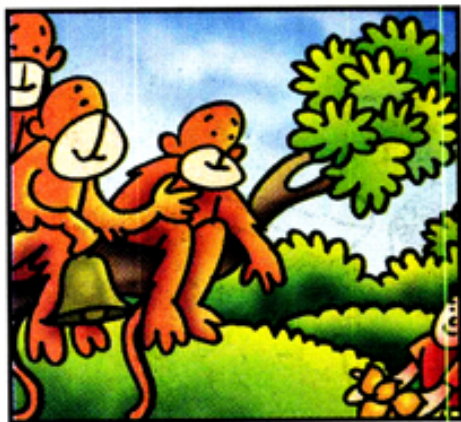
He thought of a bright plan.



There was a mango tree nearby, laden with fruits.



Shyam plucked as many fruits as his hands could hold...



... and went back to the monkeys.



The monkeys dropped the bell and climbed down for the mangoes!



Shyam quickly picked up the golden bell...



.... and ran back to the village!



The grownups were very pleased with Shyam.



The golden bell chimed again at the temple!



Due to overwhelming response from our readers, the debate over extra curricular activities at exam time will run into the March 2008 issue of Gokulam too!

Board exams decide the future of a student. But extra curricular activities should not be sacrificed. It is better to minimise these activities and reach out to them for relaxation purpose.

- Varun Adishankar, Std. X, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad; Akshatha Nayak, Std. VIII, Chinmaya High School, Mangalore

A sensible time-table can make time for both board exam studies and extra curricular activities. It is not impossible.

- Manasvini Mukund, Std. VI,

P.S.S.S.S, Chennai; S.Jayachandran, Std. VI, Ryan International School, Surat; R.Varsha, Std. IX, K.V. Bowenpally, Secunderabad

Of course it is sensible to keep extra-curricular activities going even during exams. But even this should not be forced. Better to leave the choice to individuals.

- M.Akshayaa, Std. IX, Sri Sitaram Vidyalaya MHSS, Chennai - 33; P.Harshitha, Std. V, D.Bhavanishree, Std. VI, Ida Scudder School, Vellore

Board exams are like life-long investments. Exam periods are not the time for extra curricular activities.

Exams vs Extra



Postpone them to the holidays.

- M.Mohan Raj, Std. X, Ebenezer Marcus MHSS, Chennai - 53; Pavani.P, Std.VII, Bright Day School, CBSE Unit, Vadodara; Abhishek Chotterjee, Std.X, DAV Public School, Bhubaneshwar; T.S.Sadhana, Std.VI, MVM, Hosur; K.Karen, Std.IX, Nirmala MHSS, Chidambaram; B.Vijay Ganesh, Std.IX, DAV MHSS Chennai 37, R.Aravindhan, Std.VI, Bell School, Tirunelveli; Subikisha, Std.XI, CEDA School, Madurai

The exhaustion of studying for exams may make us spend more time on these activities than necessary. Better to set them aside. Anyway, competitions in these activities are not held around exam time.

- V.Surya, Std.XII, GRT Mahalakshmi Vidyalaya M.H.S.S, Chennai - 83; Abhishek V.Pai, Plus

I, Trinity Lycium, Kollam; Praveen, Std. X, Sri Sarada Balamandir Boys M.H.S.S. Salem.

Playing games; reading story books and such activities for a change are fine; but extra curricular pursuits must be avoided. So also computer games and T.V.

- B.Kirithi, Std.V, City International School, Pune; A.R. Niveditha, Std.VII, Holy Angels MHSS, Salem.

Extra Curricular Activities should never cease even during exams. They help children to be bright and creative.

- Anusha Ilango, Std.VI, Hindu S.S.S, Chennai - 20, Sharmishta Meher, Std. IX, Sri Ganesh Girl's HS, Sambalpur, Orissa.

Follow the *'Listen, Understand,*

Curricular Activities!





Exams vs. Extra Curricular Activities!

Regularity (in revising), 'Homework' method at studies and you will never have to set aside extra-curricular activities even during board exams. These activities are refreshing.

- Archana R, Std.VIII, TVSMHSS, Madurai; Shradha, Std.V, Primrose School, Pondicherry; Meenakshi Velumani, Std.XI, Jeevana School, Madurai.

I know some children who have managed to be captains of sports teams and yet score well enough to get into IIT. It all depends on our own mind-set. Time-Management and planning will help.

- S.Vibhalakshmi, Std.VII, DAV Girls' S.S.S, Chennai.

Board exams are important; equally important are extra-curricular activities. In some states like Kerala, students get grace marks for participating in state-level extra-curricular activities. Avoiding them is not right.

- Prathiba.P.B, Std.IX, St.Ann's H.S, Mangalore.

No, we should not give up extra-curricular activities but give some time to them (not too much) so that we feel refreshed.

-Namitha Satheesh, Std.VI, Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Chennai 31; E.Santosh Vamsi, Std.X, St.Joseph's Girls H.S, Vishakapatnam; B.Akshaya, Std.VII, Kikani MHSS, Coimbatore; S.Arun, Std.VIII, DAV, Chennai - 37.

Our skills (extra-curricular) may be forgotten or lost if we stop practising them for long periods. These skills too will matter later in life, even when we face interviews for jobs

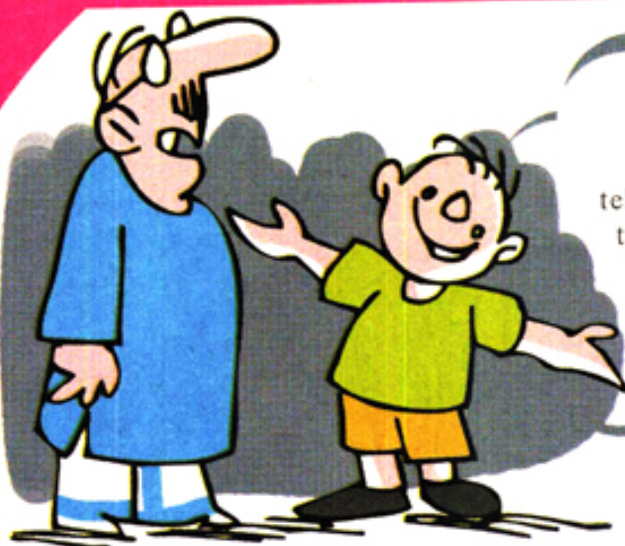
- R.Archana, Std.X, TVSMHSS, Madurai; Sanjay Nayak, Std.IV, Madhavakripa School, Manipal; Ragahavi Krishnan, Std.VII, Thakur Public School, Mumbai.

Instead of chatting or wasting time in the name of relaxation, it is better to pursue our extra-curricular interests for short periods of time. I am proud to state that I have done this even during board exams and have not lost anything in the bargain.

- Jayashree Raman, Std.XII, N.S.Junior College, Mumbai

Question for this month

Should Jallikattu (bull fighting) be permitted as a sport or should it be banned?
Send us your views by 20.2.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (aakulam@kalkiweeklv.com)



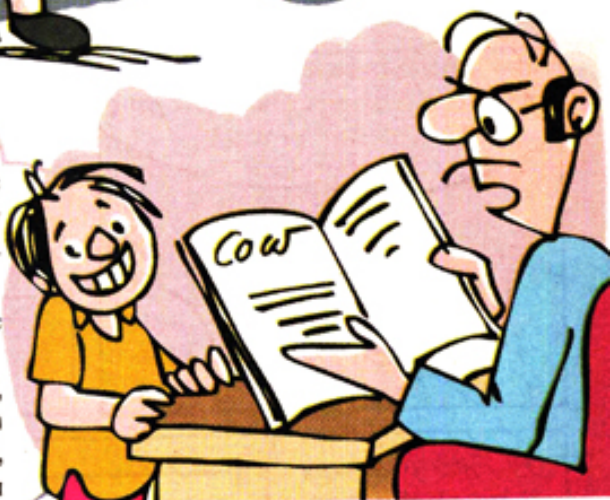
Father: Suresh, Can you tell me how fast light travels?

Suresh: I don't know, but it always gets here too early in the morning.

Teacher: Dinesh the essay written by you on cow is the one written by your sister two years ago.

Dinesh: The cow is the same, Sir.

- S.Sindhuja, Std.VIII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya
Hebbal,
Bengalooru



Tee Hee!

Teacher: What do you know about dead sea?

Maresh: I didn't even know it was sick?

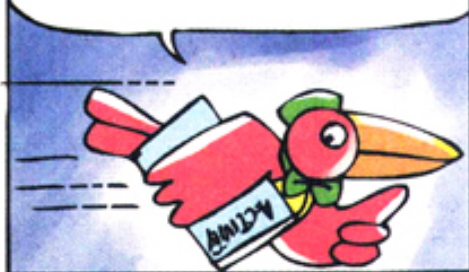
- Krishnaveni, Std.IX,
The Oxford Senior
Sec.School,
Bengalooru



BILLU

Story,
Pictures:
Pillai

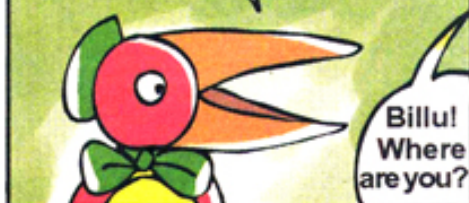
I bought lots and lots of activity books for Jilllu at the book fair.



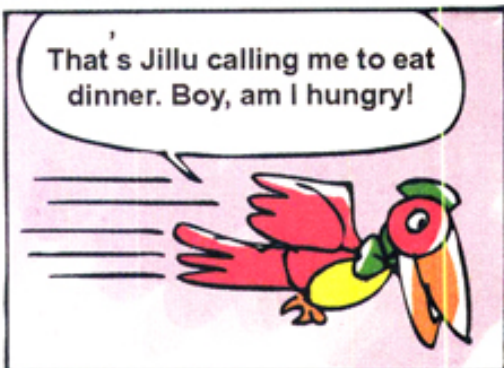
I know that all kids love to keep busy with these little challenges.



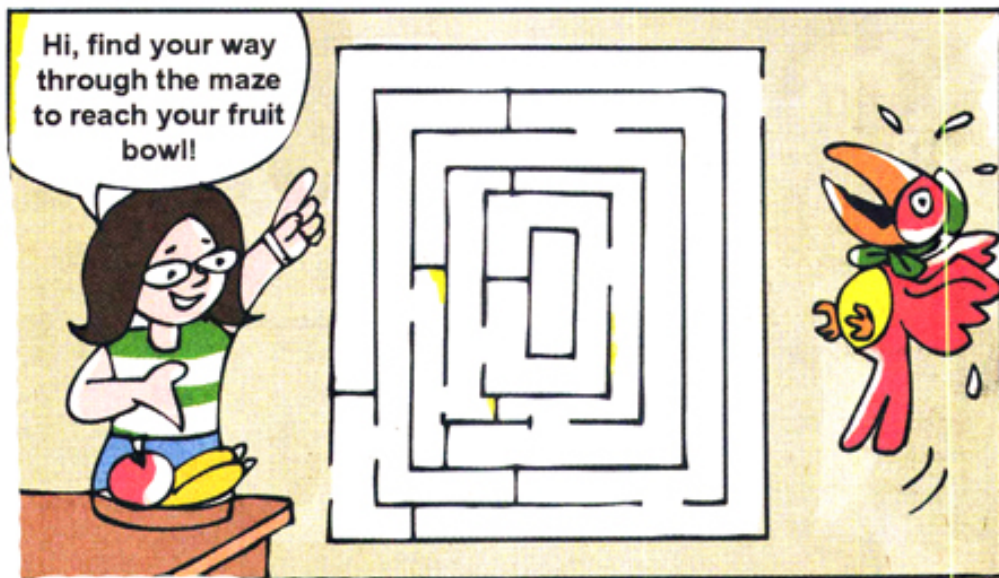
Now Jilllu has become very fond of mazes... She is always trying to make her way through one.



That's Jilllu calling me to eat dinner. Boy, am I hungry!



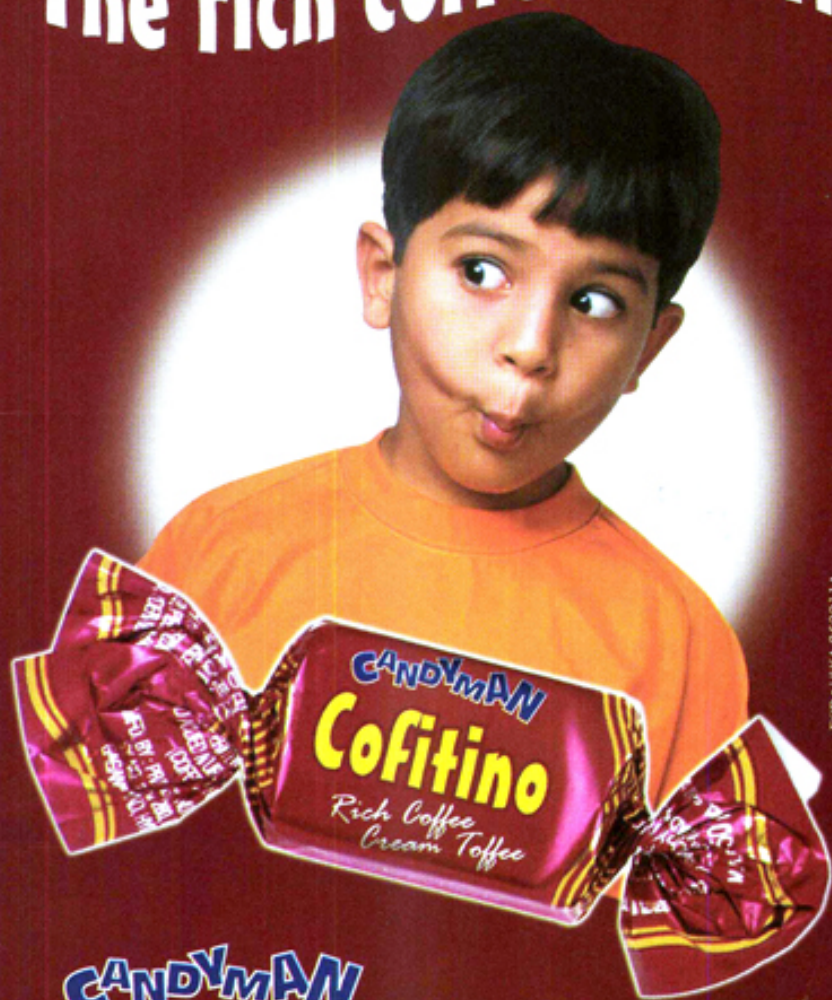
Hi, find your way through the maze to reach your fruit bowl!



Can you help Billu get to the fruit bowl?



The rich coffee treat!



FCB • UKA-850011A

CANDYMAN
Cofitino *Rich Coffee Cream Toffee*



Kuch bhi karega for **CANDYMAN**

MILKA

WONDER CAKE



IN SIX DELICIOUS FLAVOURS